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Runcie admits breaking ban on homosexual priests



Madeleine Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

THE former Archbishop of Canterbury has admitted he knowingly ordained homosexuals in direct contradiction to the Church's official ban, a policy which he described as "judicious."

of homosexuality among the clergy. Lord Runcie, who led the Church for 11 years from 1980, added in his defence: "I have not knowingly ordained anyone who told me that they were a practising homosexual and living in partnership with somebody as if it was a marriage."

Lord Runcie's remarks have provoked a storm of criticism and could open a rift likely to prove far more divisive than the ordination of women priests, which has led to 400 clerics leaving the Church.

contrary to what is the clear mind of the majority of members. He has made a mockery of the entire disciplinary structures of the Church.

Richard Kirker, secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said the double standards of the episcopate had done untold damage to the Church.

The Purple, the Blue and the Red to be broadcast this evening. Dr Carey refused to comment last night, but Church House issued a statement, reiterating Church policy that homosexual practice is not on a par with marriage, and that the Church is "right to require high standards of holiness and discipline from those seeking ordination."

Late for school mother fined

Gary Youngs

A MOTHER who brought her two children to school late every day for four months has been fined £200 after ignoring warnings from teachers and the local council to be punctual, it emerged yesterday.

Dole goes for broke

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

BOB DOLE stunned political rivals and colleagues alike in the United States last night, when he moved to give his ailing presidential campaign a desperately-needed fresh start by stepping down as the Republican leader in the Senate and resigning his own seat.

and 1988. At the age of 72, he effectively recognised yesterday that if he loses in November, his career is over. Mr Dole has faced increasingly anxious calls for drastic action from Republican governors and congressmen who fear his poor standing is jeopardising their own chances for re-election in November.



The freed Britons (clockwise from left): Anna McIvor, Daniel Start, William Oates and Annette van der Kolk



'I can barely imagine what the psychological aftermath of this is going to be'



Britons freed from jungle base

Elite forces raid camp of Papua separatists

John Aglionby in Jakarta and Alex Bellis NINE hostages, including four Britons, were freed yesterday in an airborne rescue operation by Indonesian special forces after being held for four months in the remote jungle province of Irian Jaya.



The Britons, all Cambridge University graduates, are Daniel Start and William Oates, both aged 22, and Annette van der Kolk and Anna McIvor, both 21. They were in the last few days of an expedition to the Lorentz nature reserve when they were kidnapped on January 1. One of the freed Dutch hostages, Martha Klein, is pregnant.

anything other than well treated and there is no evidence that they were ever threatened by the OPM. Altogether, 26 people were seized on January 8, including Irianese and Indonesians accompanying the Britons. The Irianese were freed within a few days and others at irregular intervals.

Why Does Your Memory Fail You?

A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said: "Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating, whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."



Forget names, faces? able degree. For example, you need never forget another appointment - ever! You could learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact, you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do.

Britain... Michael Howard... Atal Bihari Vajpayee... India's prime minister-designate...

World News... India's prime minister-designate Atal Bihari Vajpayee vowed to install the country's first Hindu nationalist government.

Finance... The rescue was staged at 4pm (Sun BST) on a mountain ridge three miles from the village of Ngosolema in Baliem Valley.

Sport... The Britons, all Cambridge University graduates, are Daniel Start and William Oates, both aged 22, and Annette van der Kolk and Anna McIvor, both 21.

Comment and Letters 8, Obituaries 10, G2, Crossword 15, Weather 16, Radio and TV 16

Rapid Results... According to this remarkable man, anyone - regardless of his present skill - could, in just 20 minutes a day, improve his memory and concentration to a remarkable degree.



Sketch

Getting into the slaughter spirit



Simon Hoggart

JACQUES Chirac spoke to both Houses of Parliament yesterday...

We were in our places half an hour beforehand, giving us time to study the vast historical murals depicting Frenchmen being killed...

Wellington: If you believe that, you'll believe anything. These days such old cartoons are sometimes reproduced in newspapers and magazines...

back to Henry VII, when among other tasks, they had to make the king's bed each morning...

This was becoming obsessive. First Chirac is forced to eat beef. Then he is surrounded by people who scoff at beef for a living...

We had an 'attachement farouche' (a fierce friendship), both nations had 'un esprit de tolérance'...

Nonsense, of course: all softening up for the cool instruction to join the single European currency...

The friendship Chirac spoke about bears no relationship to anything we export. It is the friendship of the diplomatic reception, formed over the champagne and the Ferrero-Rocher chocolates...



President Chirac kisses the hand of the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, after addressing both houses of Parliament yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE CALLOW

Cabinet faces beef anger

Chirac supports Major stance

Michael White and Julie Wolf

THE Cabinet will today be forced to fend off pressure from Tory Euro-sceptics to retaliate against Britain's EU partners...

He insisted that the ban on beef by-products could still be ended next week. But the tactical manoeuvre by EU vets took the shine off French President Jacques Chirac's ringing endorsement of John Major's step by step approach to ending the beef crisis...

of disease, serious illness, and it is difficult to overcome that, he said.

With Germany, Greece and Austria still refusing to back the European Commission's modest concession, and other countries keen for more specific safety guarantees from Whitehall, active French support, gratefully acknowledged by British officials, was not enough to risk a divisive vote...

Mr Chirac still managed to inflame Labour and Tory sceptics when he used his speech to both Houses of Parliament to urge Britain to join the emerging single currency...

take part in this great undertaking. It brought instant charges of bullying and elitism.

At Mr Chirac's side, the Prime Minister side-stepped calls for Britain to adopt an "empty chair" policy to block progress on other EU policies...

But this morning's Cabinet will see key ministers, including Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine, urge caution to avoid a vote that might jeopardise a deal.

"Today's meeting is not the make or break event described in some sections of

the media," the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, told MPs before the vote.

Agriculture ministers meeting on Tuesday have the chance to endorse the unbanning, he stressed.

"A failure to make progress would seriously complicate the relations that exist between the UK and other member states," said Mr Hogg.

British and EU officials in Brussels took an upbeat view of the veto agreement to keep the issue in play. They gave Britain until Monday to provide further guarantees on the eradication of BSE.

"We were a fraction away from getting an agreement," the Belgian delegate to the veto meeting said.

timistic we can make progress on Monday," he said.

Officials interviewed by Channel 4 News last night warned it would be "risky" to move prematurely, given the level of public anxiety.

Mr Rifkind later said "useful progress" had been made, and warned against abandoning the diplomatic track.

"Let's not get melodramatic, but realise these are sensitive issues," he said. For his part Mr Chirac, who was the Queen's guest at a Hampton Court banquet last night, said: "I think the British Government has done everything to convince the Commission and the EU of the need to have a plan which in the long term and without risk restores faith in beef."

Jon Snow, page 9

EMU convergence criteria

Three of the four key convergence criteria. European Commission estimates for 1997.

Table with 3 columns: Inflation (Annual % change), Deficit (Current government borrowing as % of GDP), Debt (Gross government debt as % of GDP). Rows include Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, UK.

Source: European Commission Services

\*Luxembourg has a surplus equivalent to 0.3% GDP

Kohl warns of tough decisions over euro

John Palmer in Brussels

AN unusually sombre Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday warned in Brussels that governments including that of Germany faced difficult economic decisions if the timetable for a single European currency is to be achieved.

The European Commission also conceded that success or failure in meeting the 1999 deadline now depends heavily on a widely forecast but still intangible recovery in growth throughout Europe.

In a report on the economic outlook for 1997 - the performance during which will form the basis for deciding single-currency membership - the Commission forecast that growth would rise to 2.4 per cent from 1.5 per cent this year.

But it warned that if recovery proved slow, and popular resistance prevented reductions in government budget deficits, this "might add to doubts among some observers as to whether a sufficient number of member states would be ready to participate in EMU at the starting date of January 1, 1999."

Against that, it expressed the hope that with interest rates and inflation at a long-term low "the revival in

economic activity could surprise in a positive manner once confidence is restored."

On this basis, the Commission last night declared that about half the EU's 15 member countries are on track to move to a single European currency by 1999.

Its latest forecasts implied that, unlike Britain, both France and Germany will meet the key conditions for monetary union next year.

But this unexpectedly optimistic conclusion is only reached on the assumption that all the latest economic austerity proposals unveiled in Bonn and Paris are successfully implemented.

It is the 1997 figures for inflation, budget deficits, government debt and other targets which will form the basis of a decision by EU heads of government early in 1998 about which countries can join the currency bloc.

The new forecasts were released after a meeting in Brussels between the German chancellor and all 20 Commission members largely devoted to the prospects for the single currency and for closer political union in the Maastricht treaty review conference.

The European commissioner for monetary affairs, Yves Thibault de Silguy, said last night that on current trends France, Germany,

Ireland, Luxembourg, Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark would meet the key Maastricht conditions for monetary union, while Sweden and Austria were also close to qualifying.

On present policies, Britain is assumed to have a budget deficit of 3.7 per cent in 1997, exceeded only by Italy and Greece. While paying tribute to the British government's efforts to bring down its deficit, the Commission makes it clear it sees little room for tax cuts at present.

It says in order for the British government to respect the convergence programme targets, further action is needed both to compensate for the fiscal slippage in 1996 and an expected less rapid budgetary improvement in the short-term which is partly due to lower growth...

Dealers on the international financial markets will now have to balance doubts they have about the credibility of the Commission's forecasts with the clear expression of political will by Mr Kohl to overcome obstacles.

Although Britain is predicted to be significantly above the prescribed budget deficit limits next year, the government debt ratio at 56.3 per cent will be comfortably under the 60 per cent ceiling laid down in the treaty.

First night

Dynamic display in metal tradition

Adam Sweeting

Smashing Pumpkins Wembley Arena

BILLY Corgan couldn't resist a touch of irony after the Smashing Pumpkins were dragged out for the third batch of encores. "You're not supposed to like us in England," he told the heaving Wembley crowd.

Various dignitaries walked down the aisle in wigs, trumpets sounded, and a team of Yeomen of the Guard appeared on the platform. This ancient body of men dates

wearing the black ZERO shirt and silver trousers pictured in the Mellon Colle CD booklet, their stage show doesn't bear much relation to their records. Where their studio sound is a tour de force of elaborate sonic layering, on stage they're faster, cruder and paint-peeling raw.

In thundering riff-driven stuff like Where Boys Fear To Tread or Zero, the Pumpkins plug straight into the great blues tradition, far closer to the metronomic juggernautism of Metallica than to Pearl Jam or Nirvana.

Bodies, with its "love is suicide" refrain, is boiled down until it sounds like vast machinery trying to shatter itself to bits. Corgan's voice, which can sound tolerably tuneful on disc, becomes a sneery yowl, almost self-consciously unpretty.

With the Pumpkins, things aren't black and white so much as cunningly shaded into one another. While Bullet With Butterfly Wings contains one of Corgan's most recognisable look-at-me-every-body howls - "Despite all my rage, I am still just a rat in a cage" - it's also broken into hard, soft and interlocking sections. The epic curve of Today survives even Corgan's shrill whining, while 1979 is euphorically scaled up.

They climaxed with a 20-minute Silverfuck jam, stuffed with loops and riffs as if the Velvet Underground had mated with The Doors. Corgan unwound his guitar strings and lobbed them into the crowd, then they conducted a mellow four-part harmony for Farewell And Goodnight. You had the sense that anything was possible.

Hidden 'culture of sex bias' pervades the police force

Martin Walkerwright

ALONG-serving policewoman, with a brief to help other women in one of the Britain's largest forces, broke down in tears yesterday as she told Leeds industrial tribunal of the hidden "culture of sexual harassment" maintained by male colleagues.

Sergeant Jane McGill, 43, said she had been indecently assaulted four times by West Yorkshire officers, and had counselled some 30 women colleagues on sexual harassment in the past six years.

Mrs McGill, a West Yorkshire training officer and women's representative to the Police Federation said she had been refused promotion because she was a woman.

Gay row bars Olympic torch

Ian Katz in New York

SOME people are wondering if the Olympic torch will ever make it to Atlanta. Since beginning its 15,000 mile journey across the United States last month, it has already been involved in an accident and almost been extinguished by high winds.

Now it faces a detour after local leaders in South Carolina challenged Olympic organisers to divert the symbolic relay by passing a distinctly non-Olympian resolution condemning homosexuality.

In its resolution, Spartanburg county council declared that "lifestyles advocated by the gay community should not be endorsed by government policy makers, because they are incompatible with the standard to which this community subscribes".

The move is a fresh blow to Games organisers who only last month announced that the torch, a symbol of the Olympic ideals of peace and non-partisanship, would avoid an Atlanta



Flickering flame: Olympic torch on the way to Games

suburb which had passed a similar anti-gay measure. The organising committee had already been forced to move preliminary rounds of the volleyball competition from Cobb County following protests by gay rights groups over the ordinance, which also barred groups promoting homosexual lifestyles from receiving public funds. Leaders in Spartanburg,

a booming city 200 miles north-east of Atlanta, insisted they had passed a similar resolution to protest against the Olympic committee's action against Cobb County.

"This is not gay-bashing," said Frank Billard, the councillor who proposed the measure. "It's a reaction. We have done this because the Olympic committee acted inappropriately."

The Atlanta committee for the Olympic Games yesterday warned that if the Spartanburg resolution was similar to the one passed by Cobb County, the route would probably be changed to bypass the area.

Following the decision to punish Cobb County, several other Georgia counties revoked similar anti-gay ordinances fearing they too would be cut out of the Olympic celebrations.

However, the white, staunchly conservative residents of the Atlanta suburb, which is home to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, refused to back down, insisting they were victims of political correctness.

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Semtex dilemma brings Labour claims of 'breathtaking complacency' □ Lord Chief Justice called for urgent action 18 months ago

# Howard ignored forensic warnings

Alan Travis and John Hullah

**M**ICHAEL Howard, the Home Secretary, ignored warnings from Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, that action was urgently needed to improve the forensic service 18 months before the disclosure this week that contaminated equipment may put the convictions of at least 12 IRA bombers at risk. Lord Taylor warned Mr Howard in November 1994 that specific remedial action

was "urgent and overdue". He told the Academy of Forensic Scientists that the Home Secretary's "silence was deafening" on the issue. Mr Howard's lack of action led to accusations in the Commons yesterday that he had displayed a "disastrous combination of arrogance and ineptitude" in his handling of the matter. "We may end up with the worst of all worlds - innocent people in prison and the guilty walking free," claimed the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw. Mr Howard was forced to travel at short notice from the

Police Federation conference in Scarborough to make an emergency Commons statement on his disclosure that the centrifuge used to analyse samples had been contaminated with Semtex for the past six years, which called into question the safety of some of the most high-profile terrorist cases of recent years. The reforms endorsed by the Lord Chief Justice in November 1994 had first been put forward three years ago by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which was set up on the day that the Birmingham Six were freed.

Lord Taylor told the Home Secretary that his "silence was becoming deafening". The scientists at the laboratory involved in the latest blunder - the Fort Halstead Forensic Explosives Laboratory in Kent - were also involved in the presentation of unreliable forensic evidence in one of the most celebrated miscarriages of justice in the 1980s, that of the Maguire. Morale amongst Britain's forensic scientists has already been shaken by plans to close some laboratories and merge others. Staff at five of the seven forensic science laboratories

passed votes of no confidence in their management in the last two weeks. The Royal Commission on Criminal Justice made 40 recommendations, including establishment of an external Forensic Science Advisory Council, for improving performance and standards in the laboratories. In fact, these proposals were first put to the Royal Commission by Professor Brian Caddy on behalf of the Royal Society of Chemistry - the very man Mr Howard this week put in charge of the independent inquiry into the latest blunders.

Mr Howard failed to answer when Mr Straw challenged him in the Commons to explain why he had not acted on these warnings. "On every occasion to date, ministers have shown breathtaking complacency in resisting proper independent scrutiny of the work of these laboratories," said Mr Straw. "The Home Secretary is directly and personally responsible for this failure to act." Mr Howard did disclose yesterday that the Home Office first learned of the mistake at the Sevenoaks laboratory on April 19 and that he had known of it for three

weeks. Mr Howard said he had been told orally on April 22 and was formally notified in a report on April 26. "It obviously does take a little time to decide on the form of the inquiry that is appropriate and to identify and approach the person best qualified to carry it out. When that process was complete, I brought the matter to the Commons. I simply do not see how I could possibly have acted more expeditiously," he said. The discovery of the blunders at the Sevenoaks laboratory will not only affect the cases of those who have al-

ready been convicted using its flawed evidence but also will throw into doubt a number of forthcoming trials where forensic results form a vital plank of the prosecution case. One prominent trial scheduled for later this year will involve Semtex test evidence as a key plank of the prosecution case. A CPS spokesman said yesterday that it would be awaiting the results of Prof Caddy's investigation before deciding on how to proceed. Among other cases involved are several against animal rights protesters.

## British writer wins female book prize

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

**T**HE National Liberal Club in London reverberated to whoops and cheers last night when the British writer, Helen Dunmore, was awarded the first Orange prize for women writers of fiction.

Ms Dunmore was presented with a statuette, called a Bessie, and a cheque for £30,000 by the actress Juliet Stevenson. The prize for women fiction writers in the English language ultimately came down to a choice between Ms Dunmore, the bookmakers' favourite and the American-born writer resident in Britain, Marianne Wiggins.

Kate Mosse, chair of the judges, brushed aside criticism of the women-only prize, saying that it served to seal books.

The third novel of a poet and children's writer, *A Spell of Winter* is about a middle-class family in the run-up to the first world war.

The Orange prize has been dogged by controversy since it was first announced. Born out of the Booker prize, the Orange followed in the best traditions of Britain's most famous literary award when the judges fell out as soon as the shortlist was announced.

Val Hennessy, a member of the five-woman panel and chief book reviewer for the Daily Mail, said that of the 166 that had been submitted for the prize, she had "seldom come across books that were so bad".

**HELEN DUNMORE**  
*A SPELL OF WINTER*

The prize was sparked by the late writer Angela Carter's failure to make the 1991 Booker Prize shortlist for her final novel, *Wise Children*. Only four out of 30 nominees for the Booker in the last five years have been women, while women have won the Nobel prize for literature on only eight occasions this century.

Intended to counter perceived discrimination, the Orange prize succeeded in attracting charges of both discrimination and political correctness.

Organisers argued that the Orange, open to women of any nationality writing in English, was actually more open than any of the other prizes, pointing out that the Booker is restricted to Commonwealth writers.

The presence of four American writers and only two British women on the shortlist, however, attracted further criticism.

Alarmed by the bad publicity, the initial sponsors of the prize, "Mitsubishi", withdrew their support in September 1994. It seemed that the project would falter, until an anonymous woman benefactor stepped forward to provide the £30,000 prize money in perpetuity, and Orange, the mobile telephone company, decided to sponsor the award with a commitment to spend £210,000 over the next three years.

Despite the brickbats, organisers remained enthusiastic. Ms Mosse said that she was determined to persevere with a prize that rewarded "novels not writers, books not reputations".

The Orange's £30,000 is the second most lucrative prize on the crowded literary awards circuit. The most prize money goes to the winner of the relatively obscure National Literature Prize, while the NCR Book Award, announced next week, offers £25,000, the Whitbread £21,500, and the Booker £20,000.

Ironically, the most recent winners of both the Booker and the Whitbread have been women: Pat Barker won the Booker for *The Ghost Road*, while Kate Atkinson won the Whitbread for *Behind the Scenes At the Museum*.



Orange winner Helen Dunmore... 'I suppose I shall spend the £30,000 prize money very easily'

### Profile

**'An electrifying talent with a lyrical style'**

**A** SPELL OF Winter is the third novel by the Bristol-based Helen Dunmore, writes Dan Glaister. The story of a middle-class family in the run-up to the first world war, it deals with sensitive issues including incest. Reviewing the novel in the Guardian,

Marianne Brace described her as "an electrifying and original talent, a writer whose style is characterised by a lyrical, dreamy intensity."

Dunmore, aged 43, married with a stepson, a son and a daughter, said that she had not been discouraged by the furor surrounding the women-only prize. "I don't think the fact that women won the Whitbread and the Booker have affected what the Orange prize set out to do," she said. "We have a unique tradition of women's fiction in the English language. We

are very foolish if we don't celebrate the achievements of women's fiction."

The Yorkshire-born Dunmore came to attention as a children's writer and as a poet. "I wouldn't define myself as a children's writer, a poet or a novelist because I want to feel that we can push the boundaries of what we are. "When I was 25, people said to me I was a poet," she said. "Now they say to me that I am a novelist. Maybe one day I will be a playwright."

Her two earlier novels, *Burning Bright* and *Zenobia in Darkness*, were both highly praised. Her poetic style has been compared with Pat Barker and with Jeanette Winterson.

Her poetry collections include *The Sea Skater*, which won the Poetry Society's Alice Hunt Bartlett Award. Asked how she planned to spend the £30,000 prize money, she said: "I suppose I shall spend it very easily," adding: "People are always surprised when writers receive money, as if they don't have mortgages to pay."

## Baring takes blame for bank's crash

Patrick Donovan City Editor

**T**HE former chairman of Baring Bank, Peter Baring, yesterday admitted for the first time that he and other top directors must "share responsibility" for its collapse after disastrous trading deals by its Singapore-based trader, Nick Leeson.

Mr Baring, who appeared before the all-party Treasury Select Committee with the bank's former deputy chairman, Andrew Tuckey, agreed there had been "serious failure of controls and managerial confusion".

But Mr Baring insisted that Nick Leeson, who is serving a prison sentence in Singapore for offences which led to the bank's collapse last year, was the "only criminal" involved.

Although he was accused by telling fairy stories, Mr Baring, who is a direct descendant of the family which founded the City's most venerable financial institution more than 200 years ago, insisted that no directors had been "stupid, greedy or idle".

Despite repeated requests, Mr Baring refused to name which Baring director had overall responsibility for overseeing Mr Leeson. He told MPs that he was aware of the reporting structure but added that he felt it was "not right for me to judge former colleagues with which I share responsibility."

Although he had been coached about how to answer questions at a select committee by Tory MP and former Trade minister, Edward Leigh, both Mr Baring and Mr Tuckey appeared ill-at-ease throughout the two-hour hearing.

MPs joked about their own £34,000-a-year income after Mr Baring disclosed that he was earning £1.25 million just before the bank collapsed; his deputy, Mr Tuckey, was on a salary of around £1.95 million.

He admitted that 25-year-old Mr Leeson had been given responsibility for running huge trading positions although he had "no professional qualifications as such". He pointed out that before the bank's collapse Mr Leeson had won the title of Singapore's Trader of the year.

He insisted that directors had never been suspicious of the huge profits generated through its Singapore operations, pointing out that it was not unusual for international broking operations to generate huge sums from "almost risk-free" transactions.

Mr Baring, who said he had been a banker for 25 years, said he was "numerate enough" to understand how

'Leeson was the only criminal - no directors were stupid, greedy or idle'

the bank had operated. But both he and Mr Tuckey admitted that neither had been aware of \$1 billion (£350 million) of funds transferred on the request of Mr Leeson to Singapore just before the bank collapsed.

He said directors had no advance knowledge that Mr Leeson had been jeopardising the bank by ignoring strict dealing regulations which prohibited him from entering into highly risky "open-ended trading positions".

He added that the bank had never seen a need to draw up formal rules which would have prevented Mr Leeson from covering up his fraud by running both the trading and administrative ends of the office. Drawing a sceptical response from several MPs, he added that this was because the risks were "so obvious that it would be like telling your children not to walk in the middle of the road". He added that suggestions that other managers could have been involved in a conspiracy with Mr Leeson were "fantastical".

## Doubts over legacy from 'abuser' actor

Charity uncertain over £240,000 bequest after daughter's claims

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**A** CHILDREN'S charity is reconsidering whether to accept a £240,000 bequest by the late comic actor Arthur Mullard, after claims yesterday that he abused his daughter.

The charity, NCH Action for Children, has not yet received the money. It said the allegations had made the issue "more complicated". Mr Mullard, who died last December at the age of 85, achieved fame as a larger-than-life, affable cockney. But his daughter, Barbara Lucas,

is claiming he was a "domineering pervers" who sexually abused her from the age of 13 and drove her mother to suicide.

In an interview yesterday, Ms Lucas said her father had told her there was nothing wrong or unusual in sexual contact between them.

"As I got older he thought that having his way with me was part of conjugal rights. I was his partner and I had to provide sex for him, no arguing."

The suicide in 1961 of her mother, Flo, was related directly to the abuse. She had left a note saying:

"I don't want to live any more because of what you're doing with Barbara"

Ms Lucas told the Daily Mail: "My father tore up that note in front of me. Only he and I knew about that note."

A planned programme on Mr Mullard for the television series *This Is Your Life* was reportedly cancelled after the show's researchers spoke to Brian, his elder son.

However, his other son, Johnny, said that there had been an argument over his money, after which he had threatened to leave it all to charity.

In the event, Mr Mullard left almost all his estate to NCH and £5,000 each to his younger son and Ms Lucas, a twice-married mother-of-four, who had nursed her father towards the end of his life de-

spite her claimed experiences. A spokeswoman for NCH, which works with abuse children, said: "These allegations of sexual abuse have made this legacy a bit more complicated."

"We will be looking at the issues involved to see whether we are going to accept the money or turn it down."

Arthur Mullard appeared in more than 100 films, usually in the guise of a stoically cheery Cockney, and made numerous appearances on television in such shows as *Celebrity Squares*.

His best known television role was in the comedy series *Yes, My Dear*, in which he played a henpecked gipsy who is a constant source of annoyance to his neighbours.



Arthur Mullard... 'drove wife to suicide'

**While British politics is about short-term gain and long-term savings, France basks in the consistent thread of strategy. The high-speed rail network and high-grade educational system for all from 3 to 18 are non-negotiable.**

Jon Snow, page 9

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News in brief

'Ethnic neglect' in education

THE Commission for Racial Equality yesterday accused the Government of "lamentable neglect" for failing to take seriously a crisis of educational under-achievement by some ethnic groups.

Rail crash blamed on muddle

A FATAL rail crash on remote Penrith moorland is to be blamed on an internal muddle at Railtrack which led to radio warnings of a landslide going to the wrong train.

Channel 4 attacks critics

A SENIOR Channel 4 executive launched a fierce counter-attack last night against tabloid critics of the station's controversial output.

Army's 'unfit' recruits

THE army is to extend basic training for raw recruits from the traditional 10 weeks to 12 to allow unhealthy teenagers to reach required standards of physical fitness at a gentler pace.

Discrimination payouts up

AWARDS in sex discrimination cases have tripled since official limits on compensation were scrapped 2½ years ago, a report showed yesterday.

Life for 'merciless' killing

TWO men were jailed for life yesterday for shooting dead a father of three in an unprovoked street attack in March last year.

Bogus claims have become a target for organised criminals and may total £2 billion a year, say MPs

Gangs in benefit swindles

Consortium wins £1bn deal

A PRIVATE consortium yesterday won a £1 billion contract to install and run a computer system in post offices designed to "virtually eliminate" benefit fraud.

The all-party committee

The all-party committee tackled housing benefit first because of the sums that went to "third parties", private landlords or their agents.

The committee admitted

The committee admitted it did not know the extent of housing benefit fraud but said it may be twice as high as the Government's £1 billion estimate.

Phoned off illegally

MPs wanted more vigilance over the £90 billion state benefit regime as well as other grants and awards made by central or local government.

State records should be

State records should be made more secure against cheats impersonating others.

Labour set to shake up the utilities

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

BIG fines could be imposed under Labour if the privatised utility companies fail to maintain supplies to customers.

'For the first time the party fleshes out Blair's call for a stakeholding economy'

For the first time, the party fleshes out the bones of Tony Blair's call for a stakeholding economy, saying it would set up an expert panel on corporate governance to draw up a code of practice on stakeholding.

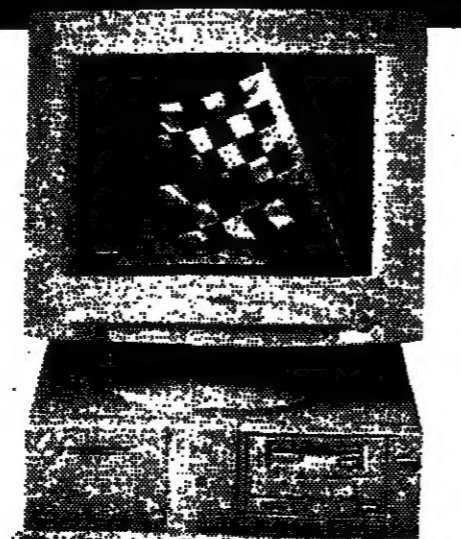


ENGLISH Heritage has petitioned the House of Lords to amend the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill to include protection for the listed buildings at King's Cross.

Tomorrow is the closing date for petitions to the Lords on the bill. St Pancras Chambers, the former Midland Grand Hotel, which has recently been partly restored using over £10 million in public money.

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July 2015

Thursday, May 16 1996  
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dies

The Guardian Thursday May 16 1996

# Survey shows 80pc are in fear of losing their jobs Millennium offers workers little joy

Gary Younge

**T**HE average British worker of the year 2010 will be older, lonelier and feel less professionally secure as he fights a losing battle to balance job, family life and bank account, says a survey released yesterday.

The British workforce harbours a deep anxiety about how the millennium will affect working and personal lives, says the report, *Changing Work Patterns - a Crisis for the Millennium*, conducted by Mintel, the market research analysts.

Employment worries plague four-fifths of adults, with 21 per cent concerned about finding work and 19 per cent fearing loss of their job. Social and emotional worries are set to increase six-fold over the next 10 years, and loneliness will become a social issue with the increas-

ing number of single-person households," predicts the company's senior financial analyst, Paul Hersey.

More than a third of those in work claimed their social and family lives were being affected because they worked too many hours.

Only four in 10 adults are looking forward to the millennium, and the number of people happy with their standard of living has dropped by 16 per cent between 1990 and 1995. The young and single are more optimistic than the old and married, with those in London and Scotland maintaining the cheeriest outlook, and people in East Anglia and the Midlands the bleakest.

Eighty per cent expect that jobs for life no longer exist, but growing flexibility in the labour market has been accompanied by a resurgence in the demand for greater job security, with just under half saying they prefer greater security to more money.

"This suggests that the public is slowly recognising that economic risk is shifting away from the state and company to the individual," Mr Hersey says.

Some see their salvation in starting their own business, with one in five intending to do so within the next 10 years, most of them young men.

However as feminists have long been predicting, the future will be female, with more women entering the workforce, which, says Mintel, should have a beneficial knock-on effect for older workers.

The report's summary says that more better-educated career women will lead to a decline in the birth rate at a time when more people will be needed in the workplace. This will lead to a 28 per cent rise in 55 to 64-year-olds and a 22 per cent drop in those aged between 25 and 34.

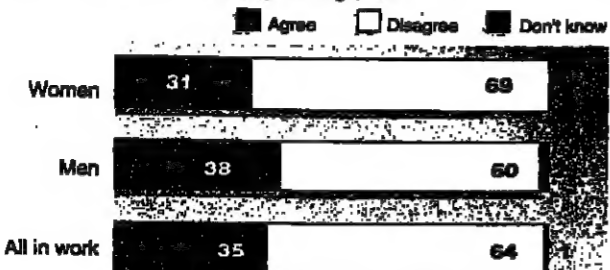
Mr Hersey believes these demographic changes will end the binge of "downsizing" that saw thousands of workers, particularly older ones, sacked in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

"I think there will be a far greater appreciation of experience and more commitment to retraining workers than getting rid of them and then having to train new ones," Mr Hersey says.

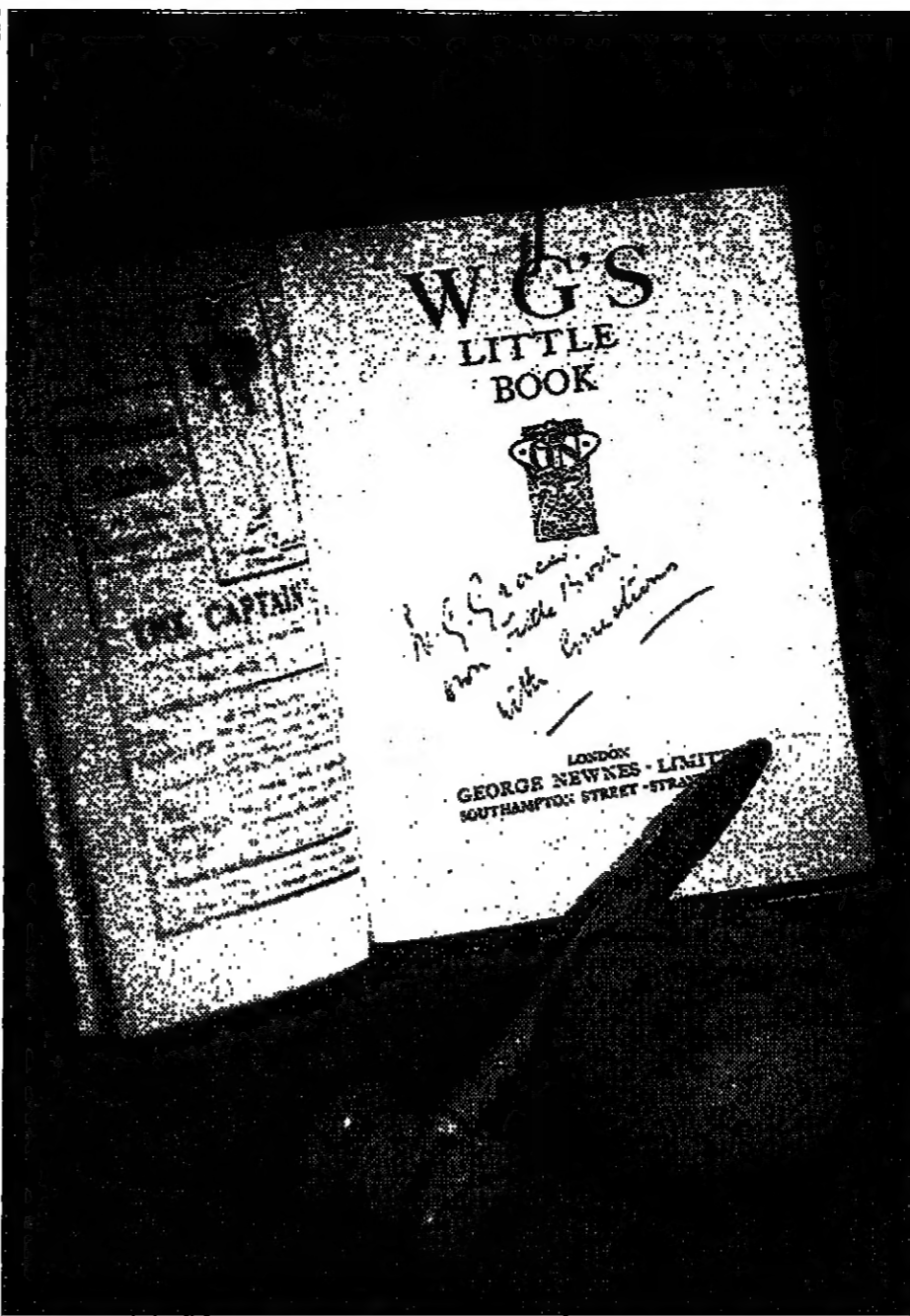
Within Mintel's crystal ball comes signs that many predictions from the past have proved hopelessly wide of the mark. Only a third of households will have a computer by the year 2000 and less than 3 per cent of the working population will work from home.

## All work and no play...

I find I am having to work too many hours and this is affecting my social and family life. Base of 1,542 adults, percentage, 1996.



Source: MINTEL



One of the volumes signed by its author to be auctioned on July 11, and (top right) W G Grace at the wicket, one of the photographs in the collection. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: TIM CLIFF



## W G Grace memorabilia sale presents unique slice of cricket history

**A** SLICE of cricketing history comes up for sale this summer when a collection of books once owned by the most famous name in the sport is auctioned in Devon, writes Geoffrey Gibbs.

The collection includes a set of bound Wisdens that belonged to the legendary Gloucestershire and England captain W G Grace, with cricketing books by and about him, and a number of photographs. Many of the books carry his signature.

Sale of the collection comes at a time of remarkable buoyancy in the market for such items.

Robin Barlow, of fine art auctioneers Bearns, who are handling the sale, says the record £23,000 paid at

auction last week for Sir Donald Bradman's bat reinforced the strong interest in cricketing memorabilia.

He said the sale in Exeter on July 11 was expected to attract international interest. But it was impossible to say what value might be put on the 150 cricketing volumes included in the auction. "Estimates are based on comparisons but this is unique," he said at the firm's Exeter salerooms yesterday.

Among the 116 lots is a rare complete set of the Wisdens from 1864, when the cricketing year was first published, until 1915, the year Grace died. All the volumes from 1864 until 1898 are signed.

Among the books up for auction are a signed copy of Grace's *Cricketing Reminiscences*, in which he confesses himself a reluctant writer.

"Writing is not a recreation I care for," admits the player who scored more than 54,900 runs and took 2,879 wickets during an illustrious career.

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ake up  
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## Offenders to lose 'pom'

### Howard to stop sex attackers retaining witness statements

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**P**LANS for legislation to prevent sex offenders from using witness statements and photographs as pornography were announced by the Home Secretary yesterday. Under the new rules, paedophiles and other sex offenders will no longer be allowed to keep sensitive material.

Michael Howard announced the move to 1,000 delegates at the Police Federation conference in Scarborough. There has been a growing tendency for sex offenders in prison to swap or trade in explicit witness statements about rape and indecent assault. Such prisoners are allowed to retain all statements and photographic evidence relating to their cases.

"Victims of sexual offences suffer appalling crimes," Mr Howard said. "Their distress

should not be made worse by defendants and their friends misusing victims' statements and photographs as a form of pornography."

Mr Howard stressed that defendants should be allowed to see all the evidence against them. "But for them to keep and misuse sensitive material is an affront to victims." It is believed that other witnesses may be deterred from coming forward in sex cases if they think that their evidence may be misused in this way.

Legislation on stalking and gun control was also promised by Mr Howard. Earlier a conference debate had been scathing about the Government's slow response to calls for legislative action on stalking. Alan Gordon, of Hampshire police, said that if Canada, Australia and 48 states in the US could draft adequate legislation on stalking, it should be possible for the Government to do so too.

The chairman of the federa-

tion, Fred Broughton, told the conference that throughout the 1990s there had been a retreat from law and order. He said this had astounded the police as it had resulted from a party that came into office "on the back of the strongest law and order platform in electoral history."

But he congratulated Mr Howard on having brought about crucial changes in the rules of evidence so that criminal trials might become more of an inquiry into truth rather than "a farce played out for the benefit of the lawyers".

However Mr Broughton was critical of Mr Howard for accepting a recommendation to abolish a housing allowance for officers. "You delivered a major blow to our conditions of service," he said.

The conference also passed a motion calling for the federation to review its policy on gun control as a result of the Dunblane tragedy. Dave Jones, of Essex police, said that without changes in the gun laws the events of Dunblane could be repeated anywhere in Britain tomorrow.



than animals because an animal can roam when it is hungry.

**September** There is a big welt on my arm where I was whipped yesterday for falling asleep at the loom.

**October** The boss says we are behind on the carpet. We are too slow. So instead of starting at six we will start at four. And instead of stopping at eight we will stop at 11. Three boys are crying but I feel too tired to cry.

**November** A big commotion today. Nageshwar and his two younger brothers escaped.

**December** Nageshwar is back and we have been told that the same thing will happen to us if we try to escape. He has been branded with hot iron rods.

**January** I want to study, I want to be a teacher, and when I grow up I will earn money and help my father out of his debt. That's what I want to do, if I get out of here.

## DIARY OF A SURVIVOR AGED 8 1/2

**February** I don't know why I am here. I think my Papa sold me to the boss to learn a trade and now the boss says I must do exactly what he tells me.

**March** It's the same every day. We go from our beds to the loom at six. No-one must talk. We tie tiny knots all day, the smallest ones on the carpet because we have small fingers. Work, work, work. My fingers crack and weep and sometimes my eyes get all blurred. We get a cup of dahl and half an hour to rest then go back to the loom till night time. There is no more food. We are too tired to play.

**April** Paro talked today and the boss lashed her with the cane. He shouted at us "if you children speak you are not giving your whole attention to the product."

**May** My fingers bled again and the boss got angry with me for getting blood on the loom. He says I will work extra hours for the next two days and I will be fined and that will increase my father's debt to him. I cried when he talked about Papa.

**June** The boy who lost a hand, poor Rangilal, he fainted today. We begged the boss to open the window. "The mud walls are hot sir. The thermometer says 105 sir." But the window stays shut to keep out the insects that eat the wool.

**July** Not much light gets through the polythene slats in the roof. It's hard to see the pattern. I made mistakes today and I'm frightened what will happen when the boss finds out.

**August** In bed tonight. Nageshwar told me his plan to escape. He is brave but he is bigger than me. He said we live worse

This diary is based on interviews with Madan Ram and other children recently working in carpet factories in Uttar Pradesh, India.

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## Gummer takes action to save rare cabbage beetle

Paul Brown  
Environment Correspondent

**A** BEETLE that lives on a species of cabbage so rare it is found only on a small island in the Bristol Channel may seem not to have much future - but the Lundy cabbage flea beetle has powerful friends.

One is John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, who has appointed the National Trust as guardian of the beetle's food supply, the Lundy cabbage, and thereby ensured the survival of the two-millimetre-long insect.

Mr Gummer is responsible for ensuring that the United Kingdom fulfils its international treaty obligations and looks after the diversity of animals, plants, and insects in Britain.

As part of the Biodiversity Action Plan he asked yesterday for organisations and companies to act as guardians for 150 species threatened by man's management of the countryside. Many of them, like the Lundy cabbage, are almost unknown, but some, like the dormouse, red squirrel and skylark, are celebrated in Victorian fairy tales and poetry but in 1996 are in danger of disappearing.

Mr Gummer made an impassioned plea for the skylark yesterday and then accepted that saving it as a common countryside bird would be difficult, since its rapid decline was due to intensive farming. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has agreed to help.

Other species are easier to save. The Lundy cabbage has been isolated on the island for at least 10,000 years and is part of the gene bank of the wild cabbage. If anything goes wrong with the domestic stock through excessive inbreeding, it will be a valuable resource.

The National Trust is to

limit the number of sheep on the mile-long island to give the cabbage a greater chance of survival.

The tiny Desmoulin's Whorl snail, one of the species on Mr Gummer's list, is at risk from the building of the Newbury bypass in Berkshire. Friends of the Earth

said yesterday, threatening legal action if a reserve were not set up or any part of the snail's habitat were excluded from it. A Department of Environment spokesman said the snail was also found at other sites, which might be better alternatives for preserving the species.

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# Russians get TV lesson in democracy

## Eyewitness

### David Hearst in Moscow

TEN minutes is a long time in Russian politics. To a sensible member of the opposition, such as Grigory Yavlinsky, 10 minutes access to television is the chance of a lifetime. How would he use his first party political broadcast on a television service whose output is dominated by President Boris Yeltsin?

Mr Yavlinsky appeared in a dark blue suit, his untidy hair closely cropped and neatly combed. He was sitting at a desk, his arms folded. He was preparing to tell Russia something important.

Was he going to talk about democracy, the rule of law, his economic programme? The jaws of his supporters,

helden to our bosses, but once in every four years the bosses are beholden to us. Once in every four years, we elect the president and it is he who is the biggest boss."

To many Russians, bludgeoned into covering apathy by centuries of autocratic rule, Mr Yavlinsky was saying something genuinely new.

A logo appeared on the screen. "What are our legal rights?" A man answered: "I don't believe in all these ballot papers. They'll fix everything." Another said: "To vote or not to vote. They'll invent as many votes as they need."

The man on his log appeared once again. Asked what he thought his legal rights were, he paused, smiled, and broke into a surging, unstoppable belly laugh.

He was right, of course. Laughter is the only appropriate response to a system where the Central Electoral Commission is subject to the president, who happens to be one of the candidates.

Mr Yavlinsky explained the rules of majority voting in two rounds, how if everyone stayed away thinking their vote did not count, their president would be elected by a minority of the people.

Meanwhile, the main communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov, also posed as a man of law in his first party political broadcast — in his case, on radio. "There should be no fears of prisons or Gulags or other illegalities re-emerging. Everything will be based on the courts' decisions," he said. Ah, but who are the judges?

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the extreme nationalist, said: "We need an emperor... a president with huge powers similar to those of the tsars or of the [Communist Party's] general secretaries."

But Mr Yavlinsky showed respect to his village audience. He said a vote today was a vote for their children's future. It could not be motivated by anger. It had to be a considered and serious action.

There was one tiny flaw in this argument Mr Yavlinsky has spoken to Mr Yeltsin about forming a pre-election pact, in which Mr Yavlinsky could become prime minister. Which makes all the talk of votes hogwash. So it was, after all, a party political broadcast in the best Western tradition.

'Once in every four years the bosses are beholden to us. We elect the president'

half of whom are the remnants of Russia's battered intelligentsia, dropped as he explained to millions of ordinary Russians how to cast their vote.

"You come to the polling station. You take a ballot sheet. You find the name of the candidate you want to support. You put your mark and after this you drop the ballot sheet in the box," he said.

What, he asked, does a presidential election in Russia actually mean? Taped interviews with Russian villagers were shown.

A worker, wearing a fur hat and sitting on a log, asked: "What the hell do we need elections for?" A woman tried, with difficulty, to understand the question "What are you speaking about? You mean Yeltsin's re-election?"

Another man appeared. "We certainly know nothing about this. This is all darkness for me," he said.

Mr Yavlinsky then explained: "All of us are be-



Street party... Human posters supporting Civic Democratic Party leader Vaclav Klaus walked around Prague yesterday as Czech election campaigning began. PHOTOGRAPH: PETR JOKSEK

# Gibraltar elections fought on sovereignty issue

The chief minister faces defeat by a lawyer running on a ticket of closer ties with Spain and cashing in on discontent provoked by riots over smuggling. **Adela Gooch reports from Madrid**

SPAIN must "bury any hope" of recovering Gibraltar, the Rock's veteran chief minister, Joe Bossano, told voters gathered in the Laguna housing estate.

Up the road, Peter Caruana, his main rival in today's elections to the 16-seat assembly, accused him of tarnishing the colony by turning a blind eye to smuggling. "It is time to break with decline and intimidation," said Mr Caruana, who is leading the polls on a ticket of better relations with Spain.

An enormous screen showed film of riots last July. These were the first serious civil disturbances on the

Rock and did much to shatter Gibraltarians' faith in Mr Bossano, who is running for a third consecutive term.

The riots were provoked by Mr Bossano's ban on speedboats belonging to the "Winston boys" who use Gibraltar as a base to ferry tobacco and drugs from North Africa to Spain. Several policemen were injured after "the boys" took to the streets.

Diplomatic pressure from Spain has led Britain to threaten Mr Bossano with direct rule from Westminster if he did not act. Most of the fast boats are now moored just across the border at La Linea, in the Campo de Gi-

braltar — one of Spain's most depressed regions and a traditional smugglers' haunt.

For many of the Rock's 31,000 inhabitants, however, the damage is done.

They are set to vote for Mr Caruana's Social Democrats, depriving Mr Bossano's Labour Party of the 73 per cent mandate he secured in 1992. They are proud of their history as a loyal British garrison town. They do not like to be considered a hotbed of corruption, and they are tired of queuing for hours at the frontier to undergo Spanish police checks. They are also worried by unemployment running close to 10 per cent.

"There has always been smuggling in this area but drugs are different," said one local. "It is changing Gibraltar from a peaceful, law-abiding place into something we don't want to be."

Mr Caruana, a lawyer, aged 38, is ready to capitalise on

the discontent. He promises to soothe relations with Britain, improve the economy by promoting tourism, make the government more accountable and raise the possibility of talks with Spain.

"We have nothing to lose by dialogue with a veto in the sovereignty issue and our own votes in any talks," said Mr Caruana, whose election

'There has always been smuggling in this area but drugs are different. It is changing Gibraltar'

could trigger a new backlash against the Winston boys.

He has the support of the "Sotograndees" — rich Gibraltarians businessmen who live in the luxury Sotogrande development on the Costa del Sol and want rapprochement with Spain.

For Mr Bossano, this attitude is the thin end of the wedge. For the past eight

years, the former union leader and merchant navy cook, aged 57, has sought to instil Gibraltarians with a sense of their own identity.

He bases his case on the United Nations Charter, which he says gives colonies the right to self-determination. In this election he demands "free association status" similar to that enjoyed by the Channel Islands. His dream of turning Gibraltar into a lucrative tax-haven foundered, however, after Spain turned the screws on Britain with accusations of money-laundering.

Joe Garcia's National Party, advocating a city-state arrangement like Andorra's, lags a poor third but could split the Caruana vote.

Gibraltar's standing is governed by the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht which says that if Britain ever leaves, sovereignty passes directly to Spain. Spain refuses Gibraltarians a place at any talks.

The condominium is complicated by a 1969 constitution accepting that Gibraltarians' wishes will be paramount in deciding their future.

Gibraltar is a longstanding

hobby-horse of the right. Spain's new conservative government talks tough, threatening to sever communications. As a result, all the candidates have stepped up anti-Spanish rhetoric.

Beneath the harsh words there are strong currents pushing for settlement. The issue has held up the signing of European Union treaties and proved the main stumbling-block to Spain's full integration into NATO's military structure.

Britain enjoys the benefits of a strategic toehold at the entrance to the Mediterranean, but also faces financial difficulties keeping the colony going. Defence spending accounts for only 9 per cent of Gibraltar's income, compared with 70 per cent in 1980.

Both Britain and Spain want Mr Bossano out. Then, diplomats argue, there could be many solutions if the political will to implement them existed. So far it has been lacking, but the defeat of Mr Bossano coupled with a new administration in Spain and the prospect of a Labour government in Britain could lead to progress in the dispute.

# Germany debates Meinhof legacy

Ian Traynor in Bonn reports on the renewed interest in one of Europe's most 'dangerous anarchists' in the 1960s

TO THE tabloid press she was Germany's "most dangerous anarchist". To feminists in reunified Germany, she was a pioneering radical. To many liberals of the 1960s generation of rebels and renegades, she is the misunderstood martyr. The rest of the world knew her as one of Europe's most wanted terrorists.

Ulrike Meinhof, the upper-middle-class student politician who with Andreas Baader gave her name to Europe's most feared terrorist organisation, died in her Stuttgart prison cell 20 years ago, on Mother's Day, May 1976.

The anniversary of her suicide by hanging from the prison cell window bars is generating a reassessment of her role and significance in post-war German politics that is tantamount to the rehabilitation of a name once synonymous with leftwing extremism and terrorist violence.

Interest in the Meinhof myth is intense. A memorial meeting at a Berlin university last week drew thousands who gathered under a giant Meinhof portrait to lament her passing and debate her legacy.

Feminists in east Berlin staged a play made up largely of her writings, causing local Christian Democrats to pro-

test about a "theatre stage being offered posthumously to a terrorist".

The newspaper columns are thick with reminiscences and analyses. Television specials were screened in an attempt to illuminate the Meinhof-led insurgency and why to keep the legend alive.

Meinhof was the intellectual motor of the terrorist Baader-Meinhof gang, who metamorphosed into the Red Army Faction leftwing extremists who bombed and murdered their way to notoriety and whose activities have ebbed since the demise of the cold war in 1990.

The group formed around Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, and Ulrike Meinhof, a group for whom murder was again to become a means of political struggle. But even this fact has never exhausted the fascination with the personality of Ulrike Meinhof, the liberal commentator Juergen Busche wrote.

In the respected Hamburg weekly Die Zeit, Willi Winkler declared that Meinhof wanted to "defend not just human dignity, but also the dignity of the German Basic Law (constitution)".

If Meinhof did not flinch from the use of violence as a political weapon, she also



Ulrike Meinhof before her court trial in Stuttgart

stood in a German tradition of dogmatic idealism, a tradition that has lingering attractions for younger generations of both right and left.

Her heroic status lives on in the squares of Berlin and Hamburg radicals, where "Viva Ulrike" is a common graffiti pastime — and in the actions of the young hooded radicals who fought pitched battles with riot police in northern Germany last week, vainly seeking to sabotage the transport of radioactive waste to a temporary storage site.

In the orthodox political spectrum Meinhof remains a revered, if contentious, figure among younger Social Democrats, and especially among the Greens, Europe's most powerful environmentalist party.

Meinhof was born in 1937 and adopted at the age of 11,

after the death of her parents, by an historian. She became active in the youth wing of the Social Democrats, the 1960s anti-nuclear movement, and the rumbustious student politics that peaked with the 1968 revolt.

Her key role, after giving birth to twin girls in 1960, was to become chief polemicist and eventually editor of the Hamburg student newspaper Konkret, which achieved the status of a fully-fledged national newspaper.

After she formed her "revolutionary cell" with him at the end of the 1960s, Baader was arrested. Meinhof went underground after helping to spring him from jail. Bank raids and attacks on United States army installations followed.

She was arrested in 1972 and two years later was jailed for eight years for attempted murder while springing Baader.

Conditions in Stuttgart's Stammheim prison were notoriously tough. But what was apparently the final straw came in May 1976 when Baader abandoned her. During his trial he said a certain bomb attack had been carried out not by the RAF, but, he implied, by Meinhof alone. She killed herself days later.

Her daughter Bettina wrote last week that Meinhof made the common 1960s mistake of idealising violence with the aim of shaking Germany out of complacency. "I think my mother followed the wrong path," she said.

# Nato shakes free of US command structure

foreign ministers meeting in Berlin on June 3 and 4.

The US ambassador to Nato, Robert Hunter, called it "the most fundamental change in the Nato structure in decades".

The CJTF was proposed in September 1993 and adopted at the Nato summit in January 1994. In essence, it involves setting up a series of core field command centres, permanently manned and fully prepared to move at very short notice to any given theatre of operations.

It is the first tangible move towards giving the alliance a more European slant, preparing it to take in new members from the east, and giving it the ability to undertake a broader range of missions.

NATO agreed yesterday to shed its cold war command system and create the framework for a combined joint task force (CJTF) able to use United States equipment without American personnel.

The decision will be formally approved by Nato

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# Nationalists get chance to rule India

Suzanne Goldenberg  
in New Delhi

**A**MID the beat of victory drums and screams in praise of Mother India, the prime minister-designate, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, vowed last night to install the country's first Hindu nationalist government.

Mr Vajpayee, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, had been summoned earlier yesterday to the presidential palace where he was appointed prime minister and given until May 31 to prove he can command a majority in parliament.

Mr Vajpayee and his cabinet are to be sworn in today. However, with their main opponents — the National Front-Left Front alliance — vowing to bring them down, it is by no means certain they can win a parliamentary confidence vote.

Yesterday's decision by President Shankar Dayal Sharma to call on Mr Vajpayee follows frantic efforts by the NF-LF to block the rise to power of a party seen as the enemy of Muslims and lower-caste Hindus.

Although the BJP is the single largest party after last week's inconclusive general election, it has only a third of the seats in parliament.

The NF-LF, stung by Mr Sharma's decision to ignore its own claim to govern, vowed yesterday to defeat the BJP and appeal to the president to reconsider. The defeated Congress has also said it will vote against the government on May 31.

The BJP was in celebratory mood anyway. Minutes after

Mr Vajpayee returned from his meeting with the president, party workers arrived with bouquets and boxes of *laddoos*, the yellow sweets that are regulation fare at happy occasions, and milled about his garden exchanging jubilant messages on cellular phones.

Mr Vajpayee, aged 69, has been projected as a BJP moderate — a reputation he strove to uphold yesterday. "We will treat all citizens on equal footing. There will be no discrimination on the basis of religion, region, caste or class," he told a press conference mobbed by party supporters.

He criticised liberal intellectuals who had expressed fears about the BJP, and efforts by its opponents to block its rise. "To say that calling the BJP would be to subvert the democratic foundations of India is an insult to the verdict of the people."

Although Mr Vajpayee dodged questions about the BJP's economic and regional policy — both contentious — he made a point of saying that the party would not waver from its hardline stance on religious issues and the nuclear bomb.

Mr Vajpayee said the BJP supported global disarmament. "If, however, nuclear bombs get piled up, then for our defence we will take what measures are necessary."

He reaffirmed his belief that Pakistani Kashmir, as well as border areas of China, rightfully belong to India.

He also vowed to build a temple on the ruins of a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya. The destruction of the mosque by Hindu zealots in 1992 led to religious clashes across India which claimed thousands of lives and created a rift between Hindus and Muslims that may take generations to heal.

"We want to build the temple," he said. "We will start construction after discussing it with everyone."

Mr Vajpayee, who fancies himself a poet, has spent a lifetime in the militant Hindu organisations that, until this election, were shunned as the training ground for the assassins of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

Meanwhile, P. V. Narasimha Rao, who led the Congress to its most devastating defeat in nearly 50 years, made his farewells in a national television and radio broadcast, saying: "We accept your decision with humility."



## Film director Chen Kaige, above, shares his painful memories of the Cultural Revolution with Andrew Higgins

**C**OMPARED to the student zealots in southern China who, in a grotesque ritual of Maoist devotion, murdered their headmasters and then cooked and ate the corpses, the episode in a Beijing auditorium was a fairly modest outburst of teenage savagery.

But Chen Kaige remembers the scene — a wild-eyed 14-year-old attacking his own father — more vividly than any of the haunting images that have made him a celebrated director and contender for the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival.

That is because he was the teenager who jumped on to the stage in 1966, pushed his father into a posture of humiliated submission, and shouted himself hoarse in violent denunciation.

"What makes me so angry with myself is that I knew exactly what I was doing," he said. "It was not that someone tricked me, didn't tell me the truth or forced me into it. I keep asking myself why my sister did not act the same way. She was asked to do the same thing but she refused."

The scene shocks not because it was exceptional but because it encapsulates the quotidian cruelty unleashed 30 years ago this week by Mao Zedong's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

But it is rare to find anyone as willing as Mr Chen to confront the trauma, a decade of violence and chaos which the Communist Party calls its "most severe setback", blames on a handful of scapegoats, and declares too painful for further discussion.

While foreign scholars and former red guards living abroad mark the anniversary of the May 16 Circular, Mao's 1966 clarion call against "poisonous weeds", with seminars and a flood of reminiscences, China smotheres the event in silence.

"People always say times have changed," said Mr Chen, whose films include the Yellow Earth and Farewell My Concubine. "They keep asking me: 'Why are you so serious about what happened in the past; why don't you put it behind you?'"

"I can't still remember everything. If we don't try to learn from that political movement, then sooner or later in the future we will see another very big cultural and social disaster."

He winces at the banality of the excuses for his and countless others' acts of betrayal. His father was also a filmmaker, a bourgeois profession which put the family on the wrong side of Mao's class struggle.

# 'What makes me so angry is that I knew exactly what I was doing'



The frenzy of the masses... Red Guards of Mao Zedong's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution cheer at a rally in Beijing. In poster form, their exhortations to violence were slapped on every convenient wall in many Chinese towns

PHOTOGRAPHS: KEYSTONE PRESS AGENCY, CENTRAL PRESS PHOTOS

maker, a bourgeois profession which put the family on the wrong side of Mao's class struggle.

"I was a very good student in the school and I did not want to lose face. I was angry that my father could not offer me a better family background. This meant I was not qualified to become a red guard."

The party gave its official version of what went wrong with the Cultural Revolution in a 1981 formal verdict entitled Resolution on Certain Questions of Party History. It blamed Mao's dotage and the machinations of his widow, Jiang Qing, and other members of the "Gang of Four".

This tidy explanation dodges a plethora of messy moral and political questions.

"You cannot just say Mao made a mistake. The Cultural Revolution did not happen simply because Mao stood in Tiananmen Square and waved his hand," Mr Chen said. "A political leader is created by the masses but everyone then asks the leader to be responsible for everything that happens."

Partly in reaction to the party's stilted version, some now see the Cultural Revolution as a spasm of primitive democracy. Among them is Zheng Yi, a writer who fled to



the United States after the 1989 Tiananmen massacre. He says Mao's chaos contained seeds of a worthy anti-totalitarianism. "This was the first time that people had a chance to oppose the dictatorship of the Communist Party."

Mr Chen hoped to make his own, less polemical contribution with a film version of Life and Death in Shanghai,

Nien Cheng's account of the day-to-day horror of a country gone mad. The authorities have told him to drop it.

It took him eight years to face his father and apologise for what he had done. Even then, the past still stood between them. "Whatever I did, the shadow was still there. Sometimes he treated me too well. I felt as if he was still

a little bit afraid of me."

Mr Chen left the shooting of *Tempest Moon*, the film showing in Cannes, to sit by his father's deathbed. "He couldn't speak, but I had to say a few words to him. 'Whatever I have done and will do is for you. I saw the light in his eyes shine.'"

Leader comment, page 8



Atal Bihari Vajpayee, BJP leader in celebratory mood

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## Britain to expel Sudan official

Iran Black Diplomatic Editor

**B**ITRAIN is to expel a diplomat from the Sudan in line with new United Nations sanctions designed to force the extradition of three suspected terrorists and weaken links with Islamist militants.

Foreign Office officials insisted yesterday the expulsion would go ahead despite the threat of tit-for-tat action in which Britain — with seven diplomats in Khartoum to Sudan's 14 in London — could come off worst.

The expulsion, plus travel restrictions on remaining diplomats, has to be carried out within the next few weeks to conform with the sanctions, which came into force last Friday. The United States has already taken similar action.

The aim is to force the isolated Sudanese regime to hand over to Ethiopia three men accused of trying to kill President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Addis Ababa last June. Sudan says it cannot find them, but Western sources insist there is firm evidence they are in the country.

The sanctions are part of a gradual approach in what could be a long campaign to break the links between the Islamist regime in Khartoum and foreign fundamentalist groups which advocate violence against their own governments.

If Sudan has not extradited

the three by mid-July, the UN Security Council will decide what to do next, although abstention by Russia and China and opposition from Indonesia, a non-permanent member of the council, means tougher action is unlikely.

Even Egypt, the main victim of Sudan's alleged activities, has said it will not go along with a proposed arms embargo for fear it would benefit southern rebels, lead to secession and complicate Egypt's interests in the headwaters of the Nile.

But Western diplomats say there are signs that Sudan — already on the United States state department's list of terrorism-sponsoring states — is not keen to become a new "pariah", along with Iran, Iraq and Libya.

The independent Khartoum newspaper *al-Ra'y al-Akhar* reported yesterday that the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, responsible for suicide bombings in Israel, was preparing to pull out of Sudan.

President Omar el-Bashir said earlier this week he had asked Muslim extremists to leave the country "because we do not want Sudan to be the launching point for any attack on any neighbour".

Sudan and the International Monetary Fund have agreed on a formula to repay the country's \$1.7 billion (£1.1 billion) debt. Sudan, one of Africa's poorest countries, was suspended by the IMF in 1993 for failing to repay its debts.

## News in brief

### Serb leader sacks rival

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, yesterday sacked a moderate rival favoured by the international community in a challenge to plans to sideline him and try him for suspected war crimes.

Rajko Kasagic, appointed by Mr Karadzic as "prime minister" of the self-described Serb state, has been increasingly sought by UN and Nato involved in implementing the Bosnian peace agreement. — AP.

### Conscience plea

Greek lawyers called yesterday for the abolition of legislation banning conscientious objection to armed military service, writes *Helena Smith in Athens*.

### 'Blast' crash

Investigators into the Florida air crash are focusing on a possible explosion aboard ValuJet Flight 592 after learning

that the plane carried dozens of old oxygen generators and finding parts of the wreckage that appear to be damaged by fire. — AP.

### Tornado appeal

Bangladesh's caretaker government appealed yesterday for international assistance in coping with the aftermath of the tornado two days ago, writes *Ashraf Mahmood in Dhaka*. Rescue workers found 35 more bodies, pushing the death toll to 477.

### 'Biggest' ruby

A ruby believed to be the world's largest, weighing 21,450 carats, has been found in Mogok, 435 miles north of the Burmese capital Rangoon, the state press reported. — AP.

### Wages of sin

The city of Wuhan, central China, has issued a marriage registration rule fining men and women who live together before marriage up to 2,000 yuan (\$280), a local official said. — Reuters.

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## Too powerful already

Above all else, change the Treasury's culture

WITHIN a year, unless the history of opinion polls has to be rewritten, Labour will form the next government. One of its earliest decisions will be whether to turn the Treasury into an even more powerful ministry with responsibility for economic and social renewal (as Gordon Brown has argued) or whether instead to beef up the Department of Trade and Industry as a counterweight to the Treasury (as John Prescott would like). This is one of the most important economic decisions a Blair administration is likely to make and it is vital it is not done to settle a power struggle between two of Labour's political heavyweights. If nothing else was learned from Labour's ill-fated experiment with the Department of Economic Affairs in the mid 1960s it was the folly of creating departments for people rather than the other way round.

Something must be done about the Treasury but not in the way that Gordon Brown envisages. Although it is already losing power on three levels (upwards to the European system of central banks, horizontally through increased public exposure to the Bank of England and downwards through downsizing and Next Steps agencies) the Treasury remains far too powerful for the blinkered role it doggedly pursues. No one pretends its job is easy. As Tony Blair will soon discover, public expenditure grows like Topsy unless monitored constantly. But the case against the Treasury is that nothing in its culture or recent record suggests it deserves even more power.

At the start and end of the 1980s the Treasury presided over two unnecessary steep recessions which needlessly wiped out large tracts of manufacturing industry. During 1992's infamous Black Wednesday it spent over £5 billion of the taxpayers' money in a single day in a foolish attempt to defend an indefensible exchange rate.

To many critics this period was an illustration of what Professor Sydney Pollard called the Treasury's "contempt for production". This is not an organisation to be entrusted with an even bigger responsibility for investment, industry and macro-economic development. The Treasury would come out badly from the performance indicators it has imposed on local authorities and others. Nothing should be done until the Treasury improves its own track record.

How can it do this? Interestingly, if you strip Gordon Brown's proposals from the surrounding power politics, he has come up with a very good idea which could achieve the right end at far lower cost. He argues that civil servants in the Treasury ought to be given a "mission statement" compelling them to take long-term aims (like investment, the rate of growth and employment) into the decisions they take. If they had to justify their decisions against these criteria every year to a Commons select committee (armed with statistics from the Audit Commission) then, just possibly, we might witness a revolution at the Treasury. However, far from increasing the Treasury's power over other departments, it might usefully weaken it by forcing it into a closer partnership with hitherto satellite departments. Under our scenario the DTI would stay closer to industry where it belongs and would also have its own mission statement based on what industry seeks from government (including the exchange rate), perhaps articulated through the same sort of relationship which the Treasury has with the Bank of England. None of this solves the crucial problem of how to rebalance existing public spending totals to allow, for example, more money for industry and less for defence. But if the Treasury succeeds in having a culture transplant goodness knows what else might follow.



## Letters to the Editor

### The downside of downsizing

ALEX BRUMMER'S claim (Life after downsizing, May 14) that "downsizing is a good thing" and "leads to the creation of jobs in different areas" shows how remote economic commentators can be from the people on the receiving end of the "hire-and-fire" culture which has dominated the business approach on both sides of the Atlantic for the past 17 years.

Mr Brummer seems ignorant of the authoritative data showing that our job-creation record is worse than that of many other European Union states, with employment growing by 1.7 per cent in France between 1990 and 1994, by 5.2 per cent in West Germany but by less than 0.1 per cent in the UK.

He appears to have accepted the myth that the UK has created more "flexible" jobs than our European counterparts. In fact the actual growth in such employment has been about the 4 per cent average for the EU as a whole. Compared, for example, to about 10 per cent in France.

At a time when the guru of "downsizing" Stephen Roach has accepted that he was in error, and when we can readily see the damage that downsizing has done to the social fabric of both the UK and the US, it is depressing to see that Mr Brummer has meekly swallowed this discredited piece of New Right economic dogma. In fact we need a Government committed to tackling the job insecurity that has become a fact of life

under the economic policies pursued by the Tories. Michael Meacher, Shadow Secretary of State for Employment, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

THE article says: "NatWest Bank announces it will cut 15,000 jobs by the end of the century." This is not in fact the case. Whilst NatWest has shared with its retail banking staff plans to build a new retail bank, at no point have we made any announcement in relation to projected numbers of job losses in the retail bank and we have no plans to do so.

ALEX Brummer claims that downsizing economies have "increased their competitiveness vis-à-vis their rivals", "have been successful in bringing overall unemployment down", and, in the case of the USA, that "88 per cent of all the new jobs created over the past two years... have been in industries that pay above-average wages to do so."

None of this seems to me to deal adequately with that former Guardian journalist Will Hutton's evidence of stagnant or falling investment and output during the Thatcher years, of a 30-40 per cent decline in the working population is eco-

nomically inactive, or listed as unemployed, or on government "training" schemes, or marginalised or insecure within the labour market. Hutton has recently pointed out that "virtually all the extra hours worked during the recovery have fallen to part-time workers". This suggests that UK experience is quite contrary to that apparently being found in the US.

J Wilfred Attenborough, 6 Spital Street, Lincoln LN1 3EG.

ALEX BRUMMER is right when he suggests that downsizing leads to even greater efficiencies in an ever-changing global marketplace. Indeed, what right have any of us to expect to remain in the same job for the length of our working lives? Skills that are useful in one generation can become quickly obsolete as social and economic changes wreak havoc amongst established workforces for whom office and shop-floor practices are deemed sacrosanct.

If any nation or trading group is to remain truly competitive both at home and abroad, then there can be no room for restrictive measures aimed at protecting indigent industries or services still less for antiquated notions about keeping people occupied in unproductive tasks at public expense.

Bill Jackson, 5 St John Street, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1QH.

THE arguments advocated by Alex Brummer's article are a complete misrepresentation of many of the facts which have emerged or are emerging from "corporate downsizing". Unemployment statistics, for one, are not the most reliable of indicators; within the UK "adjustments" to the rest hold certificates for shotguns. With one in 30 of the population holding a licence, this cannot be seen as a minority sport, or the preserve of a maladjusted few. It is hard to imagine that a single person in this country does not have a colleague, friend or relative who shoots.

Arbitrarily to obliterate part of the sport in the hope that this might deny another maniac access to guns would be like excluding all Irish people from the mainland simply because they might commit an act of terrorism.

Alex Kruper, Poole, Dorset.

EW Buresh's letter (May 15) is the kind that is to be expected from the pro-gun lobby, which has always refused to acknowledge the essential and easy lethality of their fetish objects. A handgun to them is neither more nor less deadly than "a bread-knife or a seven iron". Handguns were first and foremost designed to kill people. They make the act of murder very quick and simple while being easy to conceal and carry. Knives, golf clubs or even rifles don't combine all the aspects that make handguns the evil little items they are.

If handguns were taken out of circulation we would not stop murder, but murderers would find it much harder to kill without a gun. If Thomas Hamilton had been armed only with a knife, javelin, or a bow, Dubliners might still have happened, but far fewer.

Birron Niscol, Dartmouth Park Road, London NW6.

AS A current holder of both firearms and shotgun certificates, I can assure Jack Straw that we already have rulebooks - incorporated within the certificates. The log records the numbers and types of firearms held, their calibres and their serial numbers, together with the quantities of Part 1 Firearms ammunition which the certificate holder is authorised to hold.

Peter Gavagan, 38 Horseshoe Lane, Bromley Cross, Bolton BL7 9RR.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are preferred.

A Country Diary

ACHVANERAN: My two favourite birds in the garden at present are a complete contrast as far as the colour of their plumage is concerned as they are house sparrows and mandarin ducks. I can remember when house sparrows were so common that you could find colonies of them in hedges with the nests so rough and ready they looked as though someone had thrown the material into the hedges. Now in the Highlands they have decreased in numbers, so I am very attracted to the two pairs that nest in the garden. At first I thought that both pairs had taken over artificial house martin boxes but I should have believed the makers in their claim to be sparrow proof. When the boxes were erected, a small piece of plank had to be nailed to the eaves first to give a flat surface for the boxes. The sparrows are occupying the gap between this plank and the eaves. In contrast the mandarins came back several weeks ago and one female almost certainly sat on eggs in a large nest box on an alder tree next to the smaller pond. It is a very strange sight indeed when the female flies into the nest box as there is a last minute struggle to get in and she often spends a long time peering out of the box looking rather ridiculous. The male sits for long periods under the tree as if guarding the site. At least two other pairs of mandarins come into the garden and all of them get to the goose and duck food in a strange way. In each case they swim to the edge of the pond and then walk up the paddock about 60 yards to the seed containers. They often have to thread their way through groups of ducks and geese and they are very wary of the latter who peck them if they get too close. Male mandarins must be one of the most attractive of birds in Britain although the purists tell me I should discourage them as they may take over nest boxes designed for native birds such as goldfinch.

RAY COLLIER

## What was it all about, Mao?

30 years on, the Cultural Revolution is still a bit of a puzzle

TO REBEL is justified, said Chairman Mao, but what were they rebelling about? On the 30th anniversary of the start of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, it is still a hard question to answer. Without Mao it would certainly never have happened: many Chinese wish he had died, the unchallenged hero of the revolution, long before. Mao used the Red Guards to settle accounts with senior colleagues who had criticised his Great Leap Forward - and had been proved right when millions starved. The political vacuum was then filled by ultra-leftists and opportunists - the Gang of Four and their followers. Yet Mao's objective could have been achieved more expeditiously through an old-fashioned party purge. Was not the Cultural Revolution, however warped in form and disastrous in result, about something else as well?

Today's anniversary is dated by reference to the "May 16 Directive" with which Mao launched his campaign against opponents in Beijing's Communist Party hierarchy. Yet there was also a "May 7 Directive" - now forgotten - whose much broader target was the whole of society. Workers should become soldiers, said Mao, peasants should study politics, students should learn to be farmers, and the educational system should be transformed - shorter terms and no exams! Today it may to many seem a naive invocation to build new all-round socialist man and woman. At the time it had a more positively radical appeal - to many

outside as well as within China.

It is instructive to turn back to the pages of The Guardian in summer 1966 to see how this paper reacted at the time. The late Victor Zorza, in his calm analytical style, noted that there was "political myth to Mao's madness". Recalling Stalin's use of the personality cult to silence opposition, he concluded that Mao too was seeking to purge his own closest colleagues: A Guardian leader, written as the movement began, focused instead on the problems faced by China as a developing country. It suggested that Mao was attempting to solve these by a "vast experiment" in social engineering. Another leader, written as the Red Guard violence spread, called it an act of madness and self-destruction - but added that much worse was happening in Indonesia where thousands of alleged communists were being slaughtered, and with tacit Western approval.

These complicated themes do not become easier with hindsight. Efforts in China during the 1960s to look more generally at China's political culture and at popular attitudes were abandoned after the events of June 1989. If more searching questions were allowed about the "ten years of madness", they might also be asked about the ten hours of massacres. Western opinion has moved on too: Mao's arguments about the "socialist transition" are less interesting that his private life. Yes, the Cultural Revolution was a disaster, but we are still not completely sure why.

## Without being chauvinistic . . .

Wouldn't English boeuf by any other name taste as fair?

PRESIDENT CHIRAC could be forgiven for deciding to take the first Eurostar home, so absurd and plain rude has been the British preoccupation with forcing the French leader to eat British beef during his visit here this week. Is this really what British foreign policy has sunk to? Has too much beef made us quite mad? And is this column alone in finding the obsessive desire to embarrass a guest, a process shamelessly encouraged by Whitehall, literally distasteful?

Yet if the president takes offence at the attempt to stuff British beef down his throat, he can at least draw other consolations from his visits to the highest tables in the land. French wines have a hegemony at such dinners and no one, as far as we are aware, has tried to compel M Chirac to drink any of our increasingly attractive English wines during his visit. Meanwhile, for a nation which takes its culture as seri-

ously as the French, and which is periodically assailed by alarm that the language of Molière is being violated by that of Mickey Mouse, there must also be relief at being presented with a recognisably British menu.

British? Roast beef of Olde England may have been on the plate, but the menu at lunch spoke only of *filet de boeuf aux nouvelles provençales*. British? At Tuesday evening's state banquet at Buckingham Palace the president was served *consommé Célestine*, followed by *roulade de sole à la mousse de homard*, then *carré d'agneau aux légumes de printemps*, rounded off by *pêches Toscanes*. We are the last to wish to indulge British cultural chauvinism, but is it not about time that French ceased to be the language of food just as it ceased to be the language of diplomacy? What is wrong with rack of lamb with spring vegetables? Nothing at all. Yum yum. Or even, this once, *bon appétit*.

YES it hurt. Yes it worked? When did the Tories hire Jean Baudrillard as their adm- Edward Greening, 35 Garden Street, London E1.

IN the 1950s I was Peter Mandelson's baby-sitter. I feel that I may be needed again soon. Should I rethink my holiday plans? Philip Cohen, 7 Rylett Road, London W12 9NL.

## In therapy

IT is amusing to see Antidote depicted as an organisation fighting politicians to explore their emotions and to reconcile their differences (Psychobabble in the corridors of power, May 15). However, such an account bears no relation to what we have actually been doing.

Antidote draws together people from every sort of professional academic and commercial background. All of them recognise the contribution that psychotherapeutic perspectives can make in understanding how political decisions impact upon the way people feel, and how those feelings feed back into decision-making.

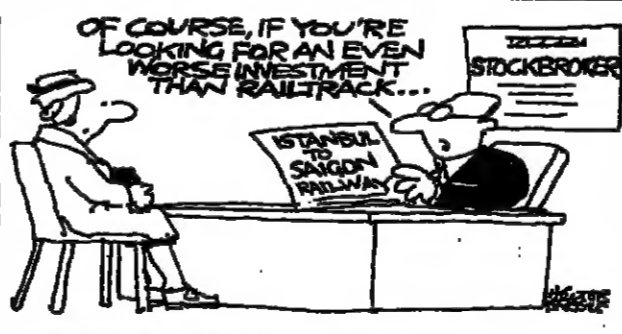
We are not offering therapy to anyone. We aim to move the debate on issues as diverse as the economy, education and the environment towards a more open and honest one that addresses people's deeper needs. The fact that Freud fell out with some of his followers is not really evidence that this cannot be done.

Andrew Samuels, Susie Orbach, Frederick Milder, Phil Goss, James Park, Antidote, 99 Shirland Road, London W9 2EL.

YOUR paper is usually accurate. But it was not so in saying that I dined with O J Simpson and Max Clifford. Max Clifford was not there. Will you raise that known. Michael Winner, 64 Sackville Street, London W1X 1DD.

YES it hurt. Yes it worked? When did the Tories hire Jean Baudrillard as their adm- Edward Greening, 35 Garden Street, London E1.

IN the 1950s I was Peter Mandelson's baby-sitter. I feel that I may be needed again soon. Should I rethink my holiday plans? Philip Cohen, 7 Rylett Road, London W12 9NL.



## Trainspotter's guide to Asia

YOUR leader on the "ultimate great rail journey" (May 14) omitted to mention one or two inconveniences of a journey all the way from Istanbul to Saigon: the different rail gauges. The Iran/Turkistan border requires a change of wheelsets from 1435mm to 1524mm, which have to be changed back again to 1435mm at the Chinese border. To proceed beyond Hanoi one would need to change again to metre gauge, but one would then be on the Trans Asia (proposed) railway route

which, when various political difficulties are resolved, would allow one to proceed beyond Saigon to Cambodia and across Thailand.

Of course such a trip would be impractical for the writer, as the claustrophobic and unreliable Northern Line connection between Euston and Waterloo renders it impossible to schedule a journey with any degree of certainty. Alison MacInnes, 30 Stanley Avenue, Wallasey, Merseyside L45 8JW.

## The Governor: a real-life drama

SIMON HOGGART (Major in the dock for blame-ripping, May 10) quotes John Gummer in the House following the publication of John Magill's report into Westminster Council: "We were given parliamentary privilege to defend the innocent... every person living in Her Majesty's domain has the right to put their case, rich or poor, elected or unelected." What a load of codswallop.

On January 10, 1995, I was removed from my post as governor of Parkhurst Prison following the escape and recapture of three high-security prisoners. The Home Secretary acted on a hurriedly prepared interim report by the then head of security, Richard Tilt, and announced in the House that John Marriott was to be removed from his post that day and would not run another prison until after the several inquiries had been completed. I had been afforded one in-

## On etiquette

NATURALLY we common people would never dream of serving a guest food designed to embarrass him. I can only speculate on how satisfied the Queen feels after her act of calculated discourtesy to a guest who represents a friendly and civilised nation. Presumably M and Mme Chirac behaved like polite guests and refrained from banging the table and walking out.

I can only regret that no French president seems to have had the idea of serving the Queen horse meat during her many visits to France. Betty Doré, 47 Boulevard de la Marne, 9410 La Varenne, Saint Hilaire, France.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are preferred.

## A Country Diary

ACHVANERAN: My two favourite birds in the garden at present are a complete contrast as far as the colour of their plumage is concerned as they are house sparrows and mandarin ducks. I can remember when house sparrows were so common that you could find colonies of them in hedges with the nests so rough and ready they looked as though someone had thrown the material into the hedges. Now in the Highlands they have decreased in numbers, so I am very attracted to the two pairs that nest in the garden. At first I thought that both pairs had taken over artificial house martin boxes but I should have believed the makers in their claim to be sparrow proof. When the boxes were erected, a small piece of plank had to be nailed to the eaves first to give a flat surface for the boxes. The sparrows are occupying the gap between this plank and the eaves. In contrast the mandarins came back several weeks ago and one female almost certainly sat on eggs in a large nest box on an alder tree next to the smaller pond. It is a very strange sight indeed when the female flies into the nest box as there is a last minute struggle to get in and she often spends a long time peering out of the box looking rather ridiculous. The male sits for long periods under the tree as if guarding the site. At least two other pairs of mandarins come into the garden and all of them get to the goose and duck food in a strange way. In each case they swim to the edge of the pond and then walk up the paddock about 60 yards to the seed containers. They often have to thread their way through groups of ducks and geese and they are very wary of the latter who peck them if they get too close. Male mandarins must be one of the most attractive of birds in Britain although the purists tell me I should discourage them as they may take over nest boxes designed for native birds such as goldfinch.

RAY COLLIER

0971 20130



Diary  
Matthew Norman

WITH the sad retirement of Lord Taylor, a vacancy arises in the post of Lord Chief Justice. However, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, is so busy with his divorce bill that he has no time to make a selection. And so the onerous task of choosing the new Lord Chief Justice falls instead to Steptoe, the West Highland terrier. Over the coming weeks, the Diary will watch all the major candidates on the gallop (in context, to be pedantic) and will publish form guides, with special attention paid to their Lordships' mode of bowing. A book will be formed, and only then will the dog deploy his usual trick of selecting a method to pick the new Lord Chief Justice. We will begin tomorrow with Lord Bingham.

ALSO vacant is the editor's chair at the Catholic Herald, and our campaign to install sane and rational Paul Johnson gathers pace. The first of what we hope will be many messages of support from prominent Catholics comes from Claire Short. She believes it's a splendid idea. "Let's get rid of all these awful liberals, bring in a solid right-winger, and put some backbone back into the institution," said Ms Short. "Vote for Paul Johnson. Yes, I can see it now." Regrettably, doubts have been expressed by writers Piers Paul Read and the former Goodie William Oddie, and it cannot be denied that a question mark hangs over Paul's editorial abilities and judgment. Clearly, then, it won't be easy getting him in, and so I have therefore recruited to the campaign team the PR genius Max Clifford. Max has been tied up this week with another client (OJ Simpson) but he will be here tomorrow with some expert advice.

THE Diary learns that Graham Farrant, 35, will not, after all, become Britain's youngest council chief executive. His appointment to the position at Norfolk County Council has been reversed due, so the council statement says, to "personal circumstances". By pure coincidence, it has emerged that a Graham Farrant was the Westminster Council housing officer responsible for asbestos management at the time when homeless families were moved into asbestos-riddled tower blocks. We hope his personal circumstances improve, and wish him all he deserves from his career.

WHICH "very close ally" of America's borrowed the famous bird gun — a cannon that fires dead chickens at aircraft windshields to test their strength? The Pentagon's Lt Gen Wes Clark refused to name it when he made a speech describing how the ally used the gun on a high-speed train, and was amazed when the chicken not only shattered the windshield, "but also broke the engineer's chair and caused severe damage to the front cabin". Evidently impressed, the ally asked in awe what sort of armoured glass the Americans had invented to resist such a force. The British (who else?) were told that there was no need for armoured glass. But it was later found to shatter the chickens first.

SALICINNESS has been noted in New Labour. Jarrold MP Don Dixon is retiring as the party's deputy chief whip, and last night the party's four women wrote Bridget Prentice, Ann Coffey, Janet Anderson and Jane Kennedy, said farewell with a party. Their gift to Mr Dixon, meanwhile, was a House of Commons tea towel with embroidered initials, several red roses and the words "Whipping men is what we're best at". Oooh matron indeed, and no mistake.

IN the Daily Express, Peter Ritchens writes with typical vigour about the sad failure of politicians to face up to the facts — or "politicians in denial", as the headline puts it. It seems he has had an attack of self-persecutory irony: this same Peter, you will recall, continued to deny his student beard long after You the Jury had confirmed its existence by a huge majority.



# Real hope for the powerless young

Commentary  
Hugo Young

If you need a gutsy reason why a change of government is essential, it was on display yesterday when the Labour Party put itself behind The Lost Generation. This is not because Labour's plans for jobless young people have any stunning novelty, still less because they're sure to work. They run as great a risk of failure as the Tory remedies they will replace. But they put the energy of a new-born politics to the service of a vision that is unclouded by failure. New men will do old things with new belief. As a manifesto for government, this is where it's at. Realism and conviction have become the acceptable substitutes for originality.

The issue elegantly called youth unemployment is a paradigm for numerous governing problems. It is a many-tentacled evil. It grows largely out of circumstance, not policy, accident not intent. It is something government cannot ignore. It is something the Conservative

government has not ignored, it continues to get worse not better. It attracts the concern of every country in the world. Its resolution is not foreseeable. Welcome to the global economy of the 21st century. Nobody can say the Tories haven't tried. A huge effort has gone into making young people fitter for the world of work. A range of different VOs, vocationally qualifying, has come and gone and come again. Training and Enterprise Councils are supposed to be all about what they say, with special reference to the young. The Youth Training Scheme costs £500m a year, and not even the most rabid trapeze artist of the right is saying that this kind of social safety-net against a skill-less and alienated under-class should be done away with.

The picture after 17 years, however, is shameful. One in six young people, in some places one in two, is unemployed. One in three fails to attain level 2 of the NVQ, the base line of foundation learning. Fewer than half those who start Youth Training complete the course. School truancy rates are frightening, and the crime levels associated with all this non-performance make more abject nonsense than ever of the Conservative claim that there's no connection between crime and unemployment, the most repellent pieces of gibberish in the lexicon of

Thatcherism. Labour's approach will not be amazingly different. There aren't that many different methods any where to be found. The YTS will be replaced by another package with a different name, redoubling the effort to make its clients complete the course. There will be a different mix of carrots and sticks to raise the levels of qualification and basic skills. Perhaps the most arresting shift will be to so-called individual learning accounts, in theory empowering individuals to make their own training choices rather than being pushed around by bureaucrats.

But a lot of this is speculative too. Its actual effect, like the actual effect the Tories have sought, depends on employers doing the right thing, on young people taking their prospects seriously, on voluntary organisations gearing up, above all on employment expanding. If a Labour government is to make a difference, expectations must change, habits have to alter, an immense complexity of social and economic patterns needs to be re-arranged. Such work is close to the heart of what government exists to do, yet is now its most Sisyphean task.

Labour brings to it only one essential quality the Tories do not have: the burning belief, unshared by years of toil, that it can and must be done.

Many New Labour remedies could as easily be Tory initiatives. There's no reason, except sheer anomie, why benefit rules remain in place which deter or penalise young people doing voluntary work or taking part-time courses. But that underlines the main thing Labour has to offer: the energy and self-belief of politicians whose turn has come. Anyone acquainted with the history of unemployment since 1979 understands how improbable it is that any government will swiftly transform it. But anyone who listened to the Labour leadership yesterday was in the presence of people whom age has not withered, nor custom stales their infinite capacity to address the issue with passion and commitment.

There is, in other words, an invigoration of promise. This is what Labour mostly has to offer, and it is not a small donation. It's presided over by Gordon Brown, the Shadow

## So Labour hasn't lost its capacity for astonishment. After 17 years, we call it political renewal

Chancellor. It therefore illuminates some of the rows he's supposed to be engulfed in. Playing the Iron Chancellor against sundry colleagues who see the Brown Treasury as the enemy of "larger economic and social renewal" (John Prescott, May 14).

The down-grading of the Treasury has been a Labour favourite before. It's the idea fixe of post-war "renewal" economists, which the 1964

Wilson government met by creating a Department of Economic Affairs under George Brown, responsible for planning and the supply side, intended to be the enemy and ultimately the master of the Treasury. The experiment was a failure. Power politics ensured that its premise was never put to the test. Within six months, Richard Crossman's Diaries note, planning had been adroitly retained by the Treasury and "it is the economists and officials there who have had all the influence".

Undermining Treasury power is an irrelevance and distraction, rendered no more pertinent for being, on this occasion, a proxy for the battle of the eggs at the top of the shadow cabinet.

Whatever the government, and whichever place John Prescott holds in the Blair government, the Treasury is and always will be a force to reckon with in Whitehall. Proposing that its "culture" should be changed is an indulgent ploy to opposition fans, another way of pretending that the sums do not need to add up.

What matters about the Treasury is who runs it, and who the enemy is to do. That Gordon Brown stands behind the pledge to give youth employment the highest priority, backed by a dribble of the extra money he guards like a puritan tight-wad, is an encouraging sign that Labour means business. It's certainly better than a sterile argument about whether Brown has too much power.

His finest power is the power to stand against cynicism. Listening to him, you know he's serious by the figure of 800,000 young unemployed, and what this means in human waste and social fracture. So Labour hasn't lost its capacity for astonishment. After 17 years, we call it political renewal.

# Limping along in the slow lane



Jon Snow

LAST Monday morning I sat with President Chirac in his office in the Elysée Palace, three hours and 20 minutes from Waterloo station. As he talked of his days at Rochester in a student exchange, a nanny pushed his new grandchild through the walled shadows on the lawn below.

Mr Chirac's royal arrival at Waterloo by Eurostar the next day, amid the simple modernity of Grimshaw's airy 21st-century terminal, hid the oft-repeated tale of the last ignominious 70 miles from Folkestone. The Bosnian wastes of Bromley's railway sidings remained unseen by television crews and diplomatically unremarked upon by Mr Chirac.

Next month he goes to Lille to inaugurate the latest section of France's high-speed train endeavour. The great sweep of new track will now link the country's industrial north-east with its more exalted south-west. Lille to Bordeaux in under four hours — a feat that in less generation of rolling stock that will lift today's 187 mph to well over 200 mph.

Two weeks ago I headed for our own industrial north-east by train. We crawled the 20 miles in two hours and 20 minutes in relatively new electrified rolling stock. The way back involved the rattle of old diesel; the carriages were filthy and the train was 17 minutes late. A leaflet in the privatised bar told me of great future plans — the gradual refurbishment of the nine remaining "diesel sets".

And there you have it. Whilst France expands the high-speed train network, Britain prepares to renew the upholstery on 25-year-old carriages. What's the strategy? No one needs to sit in city-centre or ring-road grid-lock to understand that it will all get worse. But then no one will let the train take the strain so long as there is a fighting chance that the car will get there more quickly. In the past two months I have made three trips to Liverpool on public transport. On both the first two occasions the train was more than 30 minutes late in each direction. On the last occasion, having to meet a deadline, I took the plane to Manchester and then cabbed it and arrived on time.

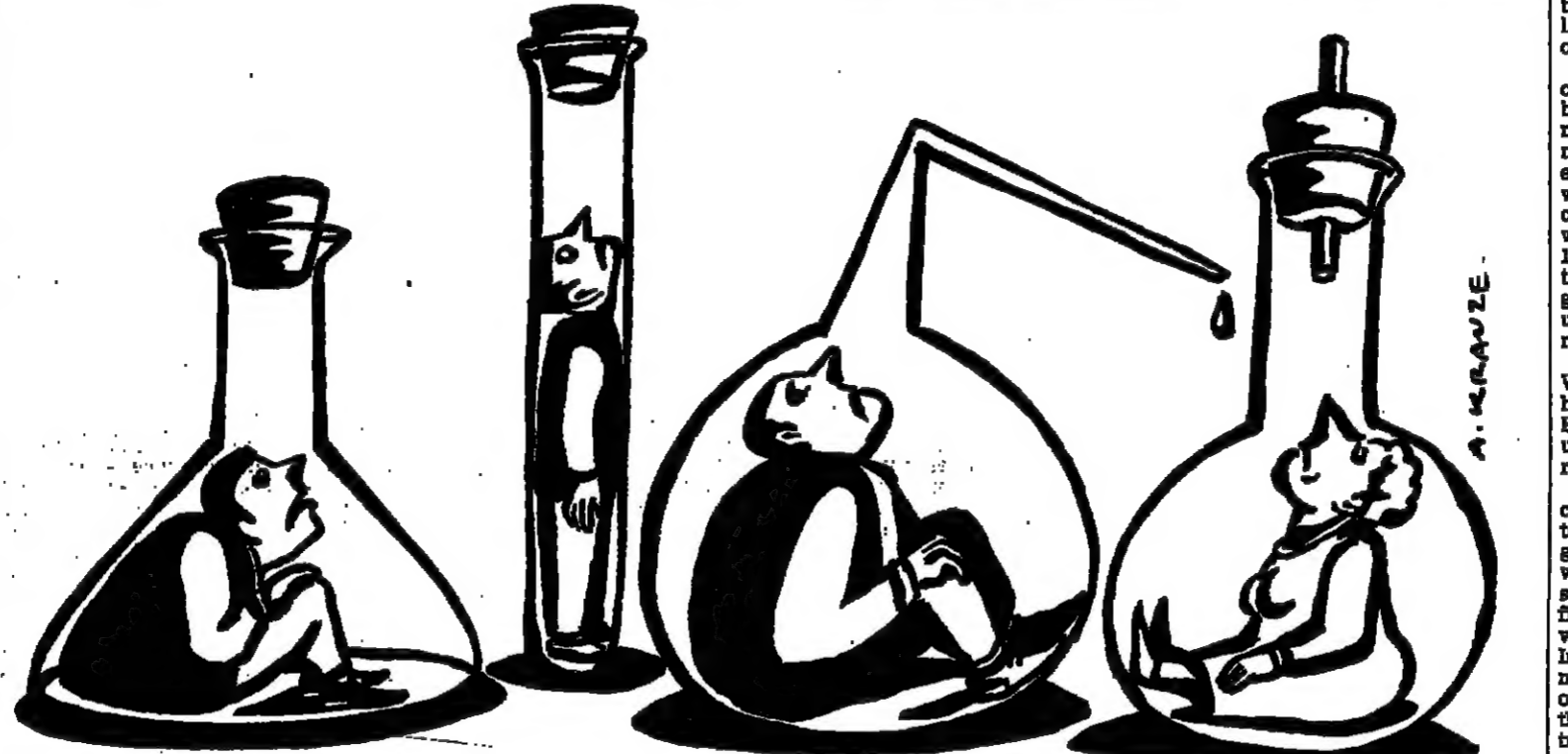
This is not a debate about who owns the railways. It is a debate we do not conduct, about strategic planning. France runs a debt to the tune

of 5.2 per cent of GDP (1995); France may miss its Maastricht criteria; France is still struggling in the pre-privatised dog days of big government. But France is planning for the long term. Britain runs a debt to the tune of 6.0 per cent of GDP (1995); Britain could hit its Maastricht criteria; Britain is at the cutting edge of privatisation; Britain is getting big government out of our lives. But big spending is still in our lives, and nearly all of it about today and very little of it about tomorrow. Even the Newbury bypass no longer pretends to be more than a 10-year solution. And whilst it is being built, will the train alternative improve? No one even begins to believe it will.

Strategic planning for tomorrow is about government. No taxpayer wants today's earnings spent on someone else's tomorrow. No individual says: "Take my car, take its bit of road and invest it in a railway for all." It is precisely because of our natural selfishness and greed that we employ, if not big government, certainly government, to make big decisions on our behalf. And in the great age of choice, we need the opportunity to choose to travel faster from city to city by rail than by any other means. But in all this, our attitude to transport is merely a metaphor for so much else that is required for our tomorrow. For transport infrastructure you can just as easily read educational infrastructure — the strategic decision to provide a high-speed network of schooling for tomorrow's children. No party has identified the scale of investment required over the next decade to get within shouting distance of French schooling provision and its results.

THIS week's visit by President Chirac has given the British an opportunity to see what remarkably similar nations we are — in size, in economic performance and even in pagantry. But whilst British politics is about short-term gain and long-term savings, France banks in the consistent thread of strategy — the high-speed rail network, and high-grade educational system for all from 3 to 18, are non-negotiable. They are touchstones of the central part that "égalité and liberté" play in the country's constitution.

Chirac will not stand on platform three at Lille railway station next month and cry "what a waste" when he opens the last section of track that Mitterrand sanctioned. Instead, he will confirm the next phase of the endeavour. Rest assured that the next time you travel from Waterloo to Paris, Lille, or Bordeaux, the leaflet in the pocket of the seat in front of you will not be offering the goal of refurbishing the 25-year-old upholstery.



# Bombshells in the lab

In the wake of the contaminated centrifuge Russell Stockdale calls for a complete overhaul of the forensic service, while below, Tim Radford warns us of the limits of science

THE discovery in the Defence Research Agency's forensic science laboratory of that centrifuge contaminated with 30 micrograms of a substance found in Semtex — more than enough to produce false positives in a million explosives trace tests on which the criminal courts have been taught to rely — raises wider, deeper issues than Professor Brian Cadogan's enquiries are likely to address. It begs the question of what seems to have been a second-hand machine (a brand spanking new one costs around £3,000) could ever be introduced into a laboratory set aside for handling mind-bogglingly tiny amounts of explosives material, let alone be allowed to function there for years without being checked.

But the conferring of Agency status on government forensic science establishments has brought the principles of scientific precision, accuracy and correctness into head-on conflict with the market forces with which they were meant to harmonise. Never mind the professional judgment and adherence to good practice, look at the cost. The Home Affairs Committee in 1989 recognised the Home Office Forensic Science Service (FSS) to be understaffed and under-resourced. So the Government solved the problem by semi-privatising it, and reducing its backlog (sorry, "forward-load") of cases by allowing the police to take the work elsewhere. Some forces did — and got their fingers burned in the process because Government stoutly refused to admit to the need for personal attention and robust regulation of the profession. Any Tom, Dick or Harry can purport to be a forensic scientist, and many

do. The only benchmark available to the police as to the sort of services they were buying was the price. Meanwhile, back in the FSS, cost-cutting by de-skilling the under-way with the most experienced, longest-serving scientists, the core of the professional organisation, shuffled off to early retirement via mind-numbing quasi-management roles, to make room for fresh (cheap) pairs of hands on short-term appointments. Few people outside the FSS can realise that the much-muzzled National DNA Database is run by temps.

But the FSS has grown since the bad old days before the Agency. Yes, there are now

more administrators, marketing gurus and management spin-doctors than forensic scientists. That must be a good sign, since none of the former were to blame for the celebrated miscarriages of justice, the like of which it seems we could see all over again.

As for the defence teams in the criminal trial process, they are now worse off than ever. Increasingly starved of funds to pay for essential, competent and independent advice, they would be ill-advised to consume any of the prosecution's scientific evidence on trust; as the astonishing revelations from the DRA bear witness, there's no telling where it has been. The royal commission on Criminal Justice proposed a new, single forensic-science organisation to serve the needs of the prosecution and defence alike, the investigators' needs having been conveniently lost somewhere on the way. But that would be to ignore the nature of the English judicial procedure,

which is trial by adversary in which two sides face each other in a combative pavane. Like it or not, it is difficult to see that a monolith such as Lord Runciman proposed could be anything other than a recipe for disaster.

It is a fundamental misconception that forensic science inevitably provides an especially pure and objective form of evidence, and that it gives universally accepted, clear-cut answers which leave no scope for debate. As expert witnesses, forensic scientists occupy a special position in court, being permitted, and indeed expected, to give evidence of opinion and fact. The danger is that the court, or perhaps the scientist himself, may be unclear as to which is which, his evidence being accepted as infallible. Presented with the same sets of data, forensic scientists can and do disagree over their interpretation. It is therefore essential, if scientific evidence is to be properly weighed and considered, and as the Dain-

ton Committee highlighted, that the defence have the right of routine access to properly qualified forensic-science help and that they are provided with sufficient funds.

The profession needs a bed-rock of rigorous professional accreditation by individual practitioners, and regulation of their conduct by a statutorily-constituted governing body. It also needs adequate funds to perform the job, and re-direction back towards fundamental reliability and excellence. Good science in clean laboratories with clean equipment operated by experienced and dedicated personnel doesn't come cheap. But it's arguably cheaper and a good investment in the long run. Good science is a dangerous business, and paper-mountain builders who would have one believe that it does.

Russell Stockdale, formerly a principal scientist in the Home Office Forensic Science Service, is a partner at Forensic Access, an independent forensic-science consultancy

## The certainty of uncertainty

ARTHUR C Clarke once formulated a simple law: that if a distinguished and elderly scientist pronounced something impossible, then it was quite likely to happen tomorrow. The only people never surprised by this law are scientists themselves, who live daily with the probability that they have it wrong. Those who don't know about science think that scientists are the ones with all the answers. Scientists themselves don't see it that way; sometimes all they can see is all the unanswered questions.

Accordingly scientific findings — even the fairly conclusive ones — tend to arrive dripping with cautionary caveats. For most scientists the answers are a matter not of fact but of likelihood and — in theory at least — they would pre-

fer their colleagues to set out to prove them wrong. The forensic laboratory machine for testing for Semtex which turned out itself to be contaminated with Semtex was a lesson for juries, lawyers, the public and the Home Office, but it wasn't a lesson for scientists. They knew about the dangers of contamination anyway. They keep being reminded of them all the time. In the days before mass spectrometers and gas chromatographs which can pick up invisible traces of tell-tale chemicals, life was simpler. Either the police found a lump of high explosive or they didn't. If they did, they brought it into the laboratory, and it was patently evidence. Sneers of evidence too small to see even with a magnifying glass, however, are a different story. If you can't see

the sample, then you can't see the contaminants either. Laboratory practice has, for decades, concentrated on careful handling. But every lab has its own mythology of mishap. Then there is a second problem. Most scientific evidence is about probability. It is about the probability that the bottle of vodka was distilled in Mammings rather than Moscow. It is about the likelihood of some other person in the same area having the same DNA fingerprint, about the likelihood of the signature on a cheque being made by someone left-handed who learned to write in Ghana, or Ireland, about the likelihood of a body being concealed overnight in a sauna — or about the likelihood of BSE jumping from cattle to humans. They sky away from words like "certain"

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John McArthur

# Malaria without the sting

**F**AMOUS for his invention in the 1930s of a superbly designed pocket microscope, intended primarily for field use in remote regions yet having an optical performance comparable with that of much larger bench research microscopes. Dr John McArthur — who has died aged 94 — had a life rich in adventure, of discovery in the control of malaria, of invention and of disappointment. His gentle, sympathetic yet penetrating approach to life was sometimes concealed behind a bristling, almost swashbuckling, appearance.

For over half a century he remained dedicated to the continuing development of his pocket microscope which, barely larger than one of the flat 50 cigarette tins common in the 1930s, was the first major advance in microscope design for a century. When in 1933 he revealed a prototype and described the design in a lecture to the then famous Quakett Microscopical Club at the Natural History Museum, London, it created something of a sensation. In the following year he wrote a definitive technical article explaining the advantages of the design, which was published in the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society* (JRMSS, 1934, II, 54, 182-5).

John McArthur's belief was that the microscope had a major role to play through use by paramedic teams dealing with tropical diseases in remote and difficult regions. He ensured that it embraced all the techniques essential to diagnosis and field investigation of malaria and other endemic parasitic diseases. As recently as the mid 1980s, to match diagnostic advances available to bench microscopists, he developed a new fluorescence method based not on ultraviolet light, which requires special illumination and is potentially dangerous in unskilled hands, but on blue light filtered from normal sunlight.

One of his microscopes was carried across Antarctica by Sir Vivian Fuchs on the Commonwealth expedition in 1957 because, among other advantages, the design resists the effects of extreme temperatures and condensation far better than conventional instruments. Another was carried on an Everest expedition. In the 1970s, at the request of the Open University, a simplified plastic version of the McArthur microscope was produced in large numbers for biology students. Yet, to McArthur's disappointment, the fully developed version never achieved its potential in field tropical medicine, nor the popularity it deserved on the grounds of its rigidity, simplicity and many optical advantages.

John McArthur came into tropical medicine and microscopy through tempestuous but inventive opportunity. His Glasgow parents moved to London when he was only a year old.

He left school with dreams of becoming a medical missionary and changing the world, and went up to University College, London in the 1920s to study medicine. While still a student he was overtaken by distraction: the subject poverty of many patients; the notion of a robust pocket microscope as a routine instrument to enhance the scope of the GP's "black bag"; and a love affair with Kitty Carey, who was eventually to become his first wife and of whom his parents did not approve.

The upshot was that he failed his finals and, in mild disgrace and in the manner of the time, was despatched by his father to South America to recover. After some months in the Brazilian jungle around the Amazon, where he lived off the land and where his awareness of the importance of tropical medicine and of his pocket microscope were heightened, he returned to London, married Kitty, the girl he loved, and qualified with distinction.

Although no longer eager to become a missionary, he was determined that his medicine should be used to help remote and disadvantaged communities. Briefly medical officer to a mining company in Sierra Leone, where he and his wife were horrified by the treatment meted out to the black workforce (McArthur always believed that he was dismissed by the company because he befriended some of the workers), he was sent in 1933 to British North Borneo as a malaria research officer.

He demonstrated that the culprit was not the abundant *Anopheles maculatus*, but the much less common and shade-loving *Anopheles leucosphyrus*. He went on to show that their numbers could be dramatically reduced by letting sunlight into stream breeding sites near villages.

Before he had written up his full report, Borneo was invaded by the Japanese. On the same day his wife gave birth to their first son, Malcolm. For three years the family were either together or separately, prisoners of the Japanese, who destroyed



Miracle in miniature... McArthur's pocket microscope opened new possibilities in fighting disease

most of McArthur's manuscripts and took the research station equipment including an early prototype pocket microscope which he had always carried. Although released briefly and allowed to return to the research station to continue with medicine, the family were soon interned at Kitching in conditions of brutal privation. Among the stories of his experience with animals, written during the last decade of his life (but not yet published), he includes one of thanks to the snails on which survival sometimes depended.

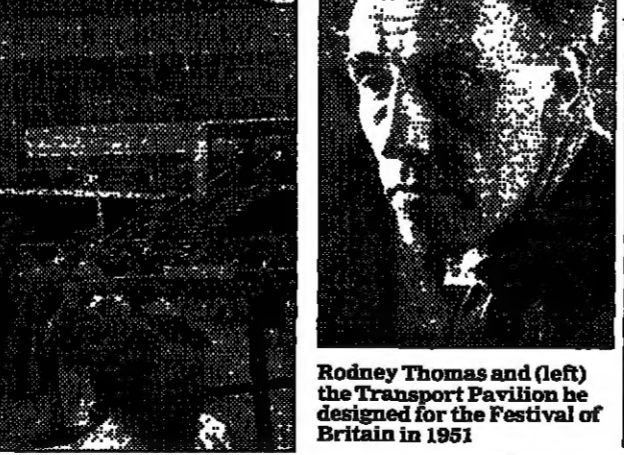
## He showed that mosquito numbers could be reduced by letting sunlight into stream breeding sites

Organisation took over the malaria control programme in Borneo, McArthur pleaded against widespread spraying with DDT until research had demonstrated that it would be more effective than his natural method of allowing light into stream breeding sites. The WHO, blinded by the desperate promise of persistent pesticides — and to the world's later cost — ignored the prewar research results and his plea.

John McArthur was a gentle man, a family man, a born naturalist with a great feeling for the forces of life, a doctor and an adventurer in whom gifts as an inventor and engineer merged with those of a dreamer. He had several honorary doctorates and was awarded life memberships of, among others, the Linnean Society and the Royal Microscopical Society. He remarried after his first wife died in 1932 and, in addition to his son Malcolm (who also survived internment and is now working in Botswana), has a son and daughter by his second wife Ruth.

When the design was rejected, he became ill, gave up his architectural practice, and returned to his first love, painting. He also taught at Chelsea Art School, the London College of Furniture, but spent longest at Wimbledon School of Art from 1963-1973, teaching architectural drawing. Martin Fuller remembers how he worked side by side with his diploma students in exercises in colour and perspective drawing, considerably enlarging his remit.

His blend of science and art and the breadth of his knowledge was inspiring. Increasing blindness led to him giving up work, but did not stop him painting; some most interesting works date from this late period. When he could no longer paint he would still discuss art, music, poetry and architecture with passion. A very tall and good looking man, he was charming and erudite company. He is survived by his third wife Joan Lyon, a son from his first marriage to Violet Guy, and a son and daughter from his second wife Grace Curcock.



Rodney Thomas and (left) the Transport Pavilion he designed for the Festival of Britain in 1951

He proposed an arched cantilevered canopy to link the remains of the bombed-out building with a new nave. When the design was rejected, he became ill, gave up his architectural practice, and returned to his first love, painting. He also taught at Chelsea Art School, the London College of Furniture, but spent longest at Wimbledon School of Art from 1963-1973, teaching architectural drawing.

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Don Adams

# Mellow songs of autumn

**F**IRST met Don Adams, who has died aged 67, in 1953 at London's Kingsway Hall, where the D'Oyly Carte Opera was recording for Decca. As the company's principal bass from that year until 1958, he sang the title role in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado* more than 2,000 times. His rendering of the Mikado's Song provided a scream at the end of each verse which was a unique and terrifying sound.

In the 1960s, Don and I founded the Gilbert and Sullivan For All company. As actor-manager, we toured Britain, the Far East, Australasia, and North America, which included three Hollywood Bowl appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Then, when we were thinking of retiring, Don was invited to take part in a television series — and it was widely seen by opera agents. In 1963, following an invitation from Matthew Epstein, of Chicago's Lyric Opera, he played Dr Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*. Another career was awaiting for Don.

He had started singing as a Bristol Cathedral School chorister and began his acting career with the BBC Repertory Company in 1944. After army service, he went into repertory in the West Country and spent 18 months touring the music halls, including a spell opposite Arthur Lucan's Old Mother Riley. It was Lucan who suggested Don should audition for the D'Oyly Carte, and he joined the company in 1951.

That later career in grand opera was to take him to Covent Garden, the US, the Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne, Holland, and the Scottish Opera. It started on the Covent Garden stage with a small part as a frontier guard in *Boris Godunov*. Last November, he helped me celebrate my 50th year as a professional singer with a three-day Lake District opera event. In 43 years of friendship I never had a serious argument with him.

Matthew Epstein writes: When I was 14, the D'Oyly Carte company arrived at New York's City Center Theatre. Fighting through the crush backstage to get his autograph, my mother and I met a man who had anonymously excited us with his performance in *The Mikado*.



Paul Sood

He became firm friends, but when he left the D'Oyly Carte we lost touch. Then, in 1962, I was involved in the Chicago Lyric Opera's *The Mikado*, directed by Peter Sellers, and I thought of Donald. His instant contact with the audience and effortless vocal clarity and volume gave him enormous success with the production.

Later I provided him with a list of characters — parts he should consider. The last time we spoke he told me that he had ticked off every one of those roles except Don Pasquale, and he was busy preparing that for the current English National Opera revival. Next November he would have made his New York Metropolitan Opera House debut as Quince in the new Tim Albery/David Atherton production of Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

He had an extraordinary and beautiful autumn to his career. He was a friend — and one of the most natural theatrical talents I have known. Charles Donald Adams, singer, born December 20, 1928; died April 8, 1996

Rodney Thomas

# An unrealised vision for Britain

**R**ODNEY Thomas, who has died aged 93, was a teacher and painter, and an architect with a highly original vision. He was Britain's first prefabricated temporary housing, but his major triumph was the Transport Pavilion for the 1961 Festival of Britain.

The son of an architect in the Indian Civil Service, he was educated in England, and after his parents' death was brought up by his architect uncle Brunel Thomas, who advised him that since painters never made any money his training should include architecture. The young Thomas trained in painting at the Slade and studied architecture at London University's Bartlett School.

He was full of original design ideas with projects ranging from cathedrals to chairs to an entire city. He admired Le Corbusier and, like him, he could think in terms of a house or a huge complex — and then imagine all the interior details.

The surrealist painter Eileen Agar commissioned him to design fittings for her London flat in Bramham Gardens, some of which were later installed in the Victoria and Albert Museum's 20th-century rooms, a rare honour for a living artist. The V&A and the Royal Institute of British Architects also keep some of his designs on paper.

In 1942 he formed the partnership Arcon with Reginald Squire and Edric Neale. The prefab was their first major project via a government-backed scheme promoting collaboration between architects and industry. Their Arcon Mark V was outstanding and some of these houses still survive. After the war materials were very scarce, which brought Thomas's ingenuity into play. The firm, with Thomas operating from Seymour Walk, his Chelsea home, was also involved in the ill-

fated East African groundnut scheme, which collapsed due to lack of government funds. This project required housing and furniture, with the chairs — some of which survive — based on the classic Greek *klimakoi* design.

When a project required an engineer, Rodney collaborated with Felix Samuel. The firm produced exhibition stands for Ascot Heaters, and other designs submitted included a new building for the Royal College of Art. Then came the Transport Pavilion, where an aircraft was suspended as though in a giant hangar. Rodney thought in original terms of structure and space; his Sky City design was based on observations of the growth of lupin flowers — the painter in him loved to examine such small details which his brilliance could then transform into something mighty like a multi-purpose tower.

Coventry Cathedral marked the peak of his career, and brought Rodney and Samuel's junction with Samuel, he had proposed an arched cantilevered canopy to link the remains of the bombed-out building with a new nave.

When the design was rejected, he became ill, gave up his architectural practice, and returned to his first love, painting. He also taught at Chelsea Art School, the London College of Furniture, but spent longest at Wimbledon School of Art from 1963-1973, teaching architectural drawing.

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Paul Sood

# BY INITIATING the first minority business strategy in the country, Paul Sood, who has died aged 88, helped build what is now one of Britain's strongest Asian local economies, writes Patricia Hewitt. For more than a decade he was a senior member of the Leicestershire County Council Labour group, where he chaired the Urban Policy Committee. Six days before his death he was elected to Leicester's new unitary authority.

Paul joined the Leicester Labour Party in 1968 as a young professional engineer and became active in the white-collar union ASTMS (now MSP). "I want dignity for Asian people," he would say. Several years ago, as candidate in a Conservative ward, he insisted on canvassing in estates where white residents did not always take kindly to Asian candidates. He recalled with pride how, in this, he and his team were greeted with grudging respect. Paul's shop — he ran a travel agency and insurance brokerage — his home and the weekly council surgeries were a magnet for people needing help.

He often berated the Labour Party for what he saw as its failure to ensure proper representation for Asian communities. He was a devout Hindu, and had learnt his dedication to community service and his taste for politics from his father, a Punjab politician in India's turbulent post-independence days. He took a BSc in India and came to England at his father's insistence to gain his professional qualifications. His favourite saying, remembered from his father, was "Always put your pants on before you get out of the house." He is survived by his wife, Manju, his two sons Manesh and Mitesh, his mother and brother.

Paul Sood, born 1908, died April 21, 1996. He was a senior member of the Leicestershire County Council Labour group, where he chaired the Urban Policy Committee. Six days before his death he was elected to Leicester's new unitary authority.

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Jackdaw

interactivity is to real space what radioactivity is to the atmosphere. French author Paul Virilio on our technological future, interviewed in *Wired*.

## Trendsets

**BENNY Levy:** You said to me once, "I've talked about despair, but that's bunk. I talked about it because other people were talking about it, because it was fashionable. Everyone was reading Kierkegaard then." Jean-Paul Sartre: That's right. Personally, I have never despairing, nor for one moment have I thought of despair as something that could possibly be a characteristic of mine. Yet I had to consider that despair must exist for other people, since they were talking about it. But it was a passing moment. I see that in many philosophies early in their work they talk from hearsay about some idea, they give it importance. Then, little by little, they stop talking about it, because they realise that for them it's content doesn't exist —

they've merely picked up from other people. Levy: Is that true of anguish, too?

Sartre: I have never known anguish. That was a key philosophical notion from 1830 to 1940. It was one of the notions we made use of all the time, but to me it meant nothing. Of course, I knew grief or boredom or misery, but — Levy: Misery?

Sartre: Well, I knew it through others. I saw it. But anguish and despair, no. From a series of interviews with Jean-Paul Sartre, conducted by Benny Levy, his assistant, in the last years before Sartre's death in 1980. Published in *Hope Now: The 1980 Interviews*, reviewed in *Harper's*.

## Vintage porn

**LONG** before hard-core porn films became available to the general public in the 1970s, small audiences of venture-gone-gay men defied the vice squads and gathered together in stifling, unventilated rooms to watch what were called "smokers", the silent,

18mm shorts produced by a handful of underground pioneers during the 1950s and 1960s. In these smoky, improvised theatres, guilt-ridden men feasted their eyes on such unspeakably obscene things as naked teenagers skinny-dipping in mountain lakes, bare-assed cowboys in g-strings and Stetsons tackling unsuspecting Indian braves, and pensive artists sketching nude athletes in the tasteful poses of classical discus throwers. For example, in *The Captive*, a short film for this period, a Roman centurion binds a disobedient slave in a tiny cache-sex who, like a damsel in distress, pleads to his captor for mercy as he unconsciously yanks on the chains that bind him to two teetering plaster pillars. No matter how aroused gay men may have found vintage erotica, the films fell far short of pornography. They contained no penetration, no erections, and, most importantly, no frontal nudity, at least until the mid-60s when a Supreme Court ruling allowed them to offer parades of jiggling penises. Even

something as innocent as touching was presented in an extremely stylised manner. Daniel Harris describes the backyard beginnings of gay pornography in *The Barrier*.

## Drag queens

**WHAT'S** the mannerism, technique, or way of smoking that turns you on the most? The ultimate for me is when the woman smokes the entire cigarette without removing it from her mouth. One fond memory is of a girl doing this as she strenuously worked a video game at an arcade, late one night. Periodically she would blast huge plumes of smoke from her nostrils, especially after scoring double points. I had an excellent back-lit view — and she knew it! Thoughts and preferences on the colour of a woman's filter on a cigarette? Personally, I think that a shiny gold filter, like those found on Fantasias and Cocktails, is the most elegant of all. I like a brown one, ones with brown filters are stronger. What single TV smoking

episode or scene do you still remember fondly? The scene I remember most is from a bad TV movie called *Little Ladies Of The Night*, featuring Kathy Quinlan and Linda Purl. Since they are both "bad" girls, they smoke. Moore and Linda even does a turn with a Sobranie Black Russian! Both women really did smoke. And Linda had a great French inhale. Smoking fetishists being interviewed in *Details* magazine.

of state, Home Office, 43; John McWilliam, Labour MP, 55; Richard Mason, author, 77; Janet Maw, actress, 42; Prof Kenneth Morgan, principal, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, 62; Prof Gareth Roberts, vice-chancellor, Sheffield University, 56; Gabriela Sabatini, tennis player, 28; Frances Spalding, art historian, critic, biographer, 46; Stella Tretwell, broadcaster and journalist, 84; Lt-Gen Sir Antony Walker, former commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies, 63; Debra Winger, film actress, 41.

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Death Notices

**PHILLIPS,** Christopher, B.Com. A.M.I.T.A. of Annington, West Sussex, formerly High Lane, Chesham. Died 13th May 1996 aged 78 years. Buried in St. Andrew's Church, Reading. A loyal servant of Manchester Corporation whom he joined in 1924. He was a member of the Leicestershire County Council Labour Party in 1968 as a young professional engineer and became active in the white-collar union ASTMS (now MSP). "I want dignity for Asian people," he would say. Several years ago, as candidate in a Conservative ward, he insisted on canvassing in estates where white residents did not always take kindly to Asian candidates. He recalled with pride how, in this, he and his team were greeted with grudging respect. Paul's shop — he ran a travel agency and insurance brokerage — his home and the weekly council surgeries were a magnet for people needing help.

**ROBERTS,** Betty, on May 14th in St John's Hospital, Llanelli. She formerly worked as a Grammar School for Girls, Porthcawl. Her husband, Peter, died in 1984. She is survived by her son, David, and her daughter, Margaret. Buried in St. John's Church, Llanelli. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, may be sent to St. John's Hospital, Llanelli. Mrs. Betty Roberts, 2 Midway, Llanelli. Tel: 01554 611666.

## In Memoriam

**PLUETWOOD,** There will be a celebration of the life and work of the actress Susan Pluetwood on Sunday June 16th at 3.30pm. Susan Pluetwood, 1924-1996. You can come home now. All is forgiven.

## Memorial Services

The Lord Jay, A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of the Lord Jay will be held at St. Michael's Church, Westminster Abbey, at noon on Tuesday 17th July. Those who wish to contribute to the service should apply for tickets to: The Secretary, Royal Albert Hall, 190 Piccadilly, London W1A 1AB. Tel: 01753 4631. Tickets will be posted immediately on request. Please contact BTIC to place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4667. Fax 0171 733 4726.

## Loose moose

**COLLISIONS** between moose and motor vehicles became so common in Scandinavia that Saab and Volvo redesigned their cars to withstand impact with the massive animals. Now such encounters are rising in North America as moose populations grow and more people drive into moose habitat. "There's a ten times greater likelihood of being injured by hitting a moose than by hitting a deer," says John E. Sutton, Jr., of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He led a study by New England doctors that urges US automakers to follow the Swedish lead. It suggests improved windshields and sturdier forward-roof support. *Green Cross Code advice in the National Geographic*

## Cracked

**DRUG** researchers believe that a cure for cocaine addiction may be possible. Rats have been successfully immunised against many of the stimulant effects of cocaine, according to research funded by the National Institute in Drug Abuse. Cocaine was prevented from entering the brain by vaccinating the rats with a substance that triggers anti-cocaine antibodies. "One long term goal would be to develop a medication capable of immunising cocaine users and addicts against the effects of cocaine," according to Alan L. Leschner, director of the Institute. "This research, given the scientific and medical fields a very promising new direction in the search for a safe means of blocking the damaging effects of crack and cocaine." A potential danger, however, is that people may try to take higher doses of cocaine to overcome the immunisation. *Prevention in the Futurist*.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BB.

Emily Sheffield

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## China faces US clampdown

### Clinton orders \$3bn sanctions

**Martin Walker in Washington**

**T**HE Clinton administration announced over \$3 billion in sanctions against China yesterday, a new US record in punitive trade restrictions.

China responded swiftly with the threat of counter-sanctions that ranged from heavy duties on vegetable oils to telecommunications equipment and films. "China shall

on the domestic audio-visual market to combat intellectual property piracy, the root cause of the dispute.

But China is also likely to continue with its deliberate courting of European companies like Airbus as a way of putting pressure on the US.

The delegation of British businessmen being led to China next week by deputy prime minister Michael Heseltine can be expected to be prominent beneficiaries of the Chinese determination to show the US that it has alternative trading partners. The last US-China row saw Beijing ordering Airbus aircraft from France and telecommunications and generating equipment from Germany.

The White House is steeled itself, in an election year, to shake off its reputation for ap-

peasing the Beijing regime. Trade rows are but one aspect of a complex strategic relationship across the Pacific, in which nuclear proliferation and Chinese threats to Taiwan and security issues all play a part.

Moreover, China's usual reliance on the lobbying efforts of US corporations now runs up against two very powerful US business lobbies which claim that China is cheating. While Boeing, General Electric, Chrysler and other traditional big corporations want to continue business as usual with China, both Hollywood and Silicon Valley have had enough.

The main issue is Chinese piracy of US computer software, CD-ROMs and CD music and audio tapes, videos and movies and books and trade marked items. These make up the copyright industry, worth \$50 billion a year to the US, 6 per cent of GDP and employing 5 per cent of the workforce, as much as the entire auto industry.

Moreover, the export industries of Hollywood and Silicon Valley are growing three times faster than the rest of the economy, and while traditional industry tends to lean to the Republicans, these newer and trendier industries are particularly close to President Clinton.

There is no doubting the determination of Charlene Barshefsky, the acting US Trade Representative, to go ahead with the sanctions, which are targeted mainly at Chinese exports of textiles and clothing and consumer electronics. She said she felt betrayed

### Birmingham Notebook

## A tale of mutual destruction



Alex Brummer

**T**HE building society movement, presently holding its annual conference in Birmingham, is a shadow of its former self. While the Treasury has dabbled over reform legislation, the structure, confidence and objectives of a movement — with its roots firmly planted in the traditions of Victorian prudence — have been despoiled and distorted. Societies which not so long ago attended these annual conferences in a spirit of goodwill competition, are now at each other's throats.

The biggest losers from the upheaval, engendered by a Government without vision and direction on competition policy in general and in the financial services sector in particular, are savers and housebuyers. Savers because they are now being offered paltry rates of return — in some cases less than the low rate of inflation — and future housebuyers who will be deprived of choice.

Of course, the building society movement has not been an innocent bystander. Several societies were so busy being having like banks, particularly when it came to repossessing properties and rewarding executives, that they came to believe the propaganda that conversion to a plc or absorption by one of the financial monoliths was the only way forward.

Moreover, those societies which determinedly wished to remain mutuals waited far too long before coming up with the satisfactory loyalty bonuses — such as higher rates of return on savings or cheaper mortgages — that have been promised.

Yet many societies might have remained mutuals had the climate been different, but were pushed over the edge by government inaction. They have been required to operate in a legislative framework which has been a financial and regulatory disadvantage to the banking sector, with its access to wholesale money markets, its freedoms in bancassurance and more flexible regulatory regime. In addition, the Government did nothing to protect societies from the menace of speculative financial flows — in the hope of cash bonuses.

the present conversion and takeover fever has played itself out little more than 20 per cent of pre-1990 assets will remain in the movement. It is that much of it has been carried out under the rubric of efficiency and competition. Yet the building societies have long been more efficient and competitive than the banks they are now striving to be, or will become part of.

A paper in the March 1996 edition of the Manchester School of Economics and Social Studies Journal has argued that UK building societies are "relatively efficient" when compared to US banks and that overall efficiency is minimal.

Compare this to the UK banking sector where our largest domestic bank, NatWest, has recently announced that in order to be more efficient it must shed 15,000 jobs, close 350 branches and make a dash for new technologies. The back offices which the clearing banks are now seeking to eliminate have been gone for nearly a decade. The largest society, the Halifax, was a pioneer in this area. And the Alliance and Leicester has recently revamped its information systems to allow almost everyone in the entire country to have access to the public believe that an instant access account is the equivalent of a lottery win.

But there is no free ride. Members of the Halifax/Leeds, who learnt of merger and conversion in November 1994, will have to wait at least Spring 1997 for their payouts. Meanwhile, as data in the Bank of England's May 1996 Inflation Report shows, borrowers and savers in those societies which have chosen to stay mutual, are benefiting from lower mortgage costs and stronger savings.

The converting societies have chosen to preserve spreads, that is the profit they make from relending cheaply obtained deposits at higher rates at the customer's expense.

The rub, however, is that the banks — which are being swelled by the merging and converting building societies — are unable to effectively compete without squeezing spreads and thereby weakening the financial base of the institution. Over the longer term, the banks, squeezed by bad debts and dividend demands, will force up the cost to mortgage borrowers, as Cheltenham & Gloucester (now part of Lloyds) has recently, surreptitiously, done.

"Productive and Allocative Inefficiencies in UK Building Societies by Leigh Drake and Thomas G. Weyman-Jones of Loughborough University.

## C&W makes wrong call

Nicholas Bannister  
Technology Editor

**F**RESH doubts surround the future of Cable & Wireless after its announcement of a new, highly paid, chief executive and a renewed commitment to existing policies failed to capture the City's imagination.

C&W announced yesterday that Dick Brown, the president and chief executive of H&R Block, the largest American tax group, will take over as chief executive in July, on a salary of \$260,000 a year.

Mr Brown, who oversaw Block's flotation of its on-line information service, ComputerServe, previously worked for US telecom groups Ameritech and Sprint before joining Block in August last year.

C&W chairman, Brian Smith, said that Mr Brown would help plug the US gap in the group's worldwide operations and oversee a return to the strategy of expansion through joint ventures.

The news disappointed the City which had been expecting a more radical appointment following C&W's lacklustre performance in recent years and its failed merger talks with British Telecom. The group's shares ended the day 5p down at 465p.

Mr Brown will be entitled to a bonus worth up to 100 per cent of his basic salary if C&W's real earnings per share grow by 15 per cent a year for three years. He will also be granted share options worth £2.6 million when he joins in July. These can be cashed in a number of years but only if real earnings per share have risen by 6 per cent over the period.

Rod Olsen, who took over as acting chief executive following the abrupt departure of chairman Lord Young Ross after a bitter boardroom row at the end of last year, has been appointed deputy chief executive, with special responsibility for developing business in the Asia Pacific region. A new finance director is to be appointed shortly.

C&W wants to expand its existing US business so that it can offer the whole range of telecom services required by multi-national companies and compete with Comcast, a joint venture owned by British Telecom and its American partner MCL, and with Global One, the joint venture between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint.



New deal... Donning the red uniform of Virgin Airlines, Lisa Leeson was at Gatwick yesterday to begin training as an £8,000-a-year plus allowances flight attendant. She will eventually qualify for free flights to visit husband Nick, the jailed ex-Barings trader, in Singapore. PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON KRETEK

## Mortgage of the future to be priced in euro

Teresa Hunter

**B**ITAIN'S biggest mortgage lenders are planning to overhaul the traditional home loan ahead of a single European currency with the launch of euro mortgages.

Lending giants have put detailed plans in place for financial life in Britain after 1999, when they believe European currencies will join in a single currency — the euro — with the UK forced to accompany them within a few years.

The building societies have produced blueprints for euro savings accounts, passbooks and cash dispensers despite the Government's increasingly Eurosceptical tone.

A Halifax spokesman said: "Our view is that a single European currency will happen and that the UK will be brought in within two or three years. This will mean substantial changes for our products, the housing market and the economy, as a whole.

With 99.9 per cent of our assets in sterling we have to look forward and be prepared."

Bradford and Bingley's plans for a euro mortgage are already at an advanced stage, and will be launched ahead of the UK's participation in single currency. Bradford and Bingley's chief executive Geoffrey Lister said: "We believe euro mortgages will be popular because they will offer lower interest rates than sterling mortgages to UK mortgages. We would even reach the stage where Britain remains outside the currency alignment but employees ask to be paid in euro."

A Nationwide spokesman however said that it was important mortgage lenders did not get ahead of the political agenda. "This is a sensitive issue which we cannot ignore. But we have to respond to political progress."

OFT director general John Ridgman yesterday welcomed the competition in the battle for survival between mutual societies and the banks which are owned by shareholders.

He said that competition was always in the customer's best interest — but the OFT had no preference. Service to customers was paramount.

His remarks came as Birmingham Midshires chief executive Mike Jackson dismissed speculation that his society was vulnerable to a takeover by the Prudential or another financial institution, or that it was poised to merge with the Woolwich. He said it had received no approach from any organisation since 1990.

The Woolwich yesterday announced the appointment of a new finance director Robert Jones, formerly group finance director of Blairwood Benson, who will replace Michael Dux when he retires next year.

However, the Woolwich said it was still no nearer appointing a new chief executive to replace Peter Robinson who resigned after allegations over expenses claims.

## CTR draws up last chance plan to contain £461m debts

Roger Cowe

**C**ENTRAL Trailer Rentals, the former Tip-hook container company which hit a financial crisis two years ago, last night revealed details of a financial restructuring to underpin its continued operations and reduce £461 million debt.

The plan includes a swap of debt for equity by banks, which would leave existing shareholders with only 15 per cent of the company. But the directors warned that failure to approve the package would almost certainly result in liquidation.

Even assuming the reconstruction is approved, the group's future remains difficult. Trading over the past six months has been disappointing, especially in the UK where the usual Christmas peak failed to materialise.

The directors are confident of having adequate finances for the next 18 months, but can make no forecasts beyond that point.

Following the deal with the banks and other lenders who have continued to support the company, finance director Richard Raine will leave.

He will be replaced by David Howell, an accountant and former chief executive of a telecom services company.

It is also intended to recruit a full-time chief executive, allowing Ian Clubb to relinquish that role and return to his position as non-executive chairman.

Existing loan notes will be swapped for new notes and shares, while new bank finance will be replaced by a mixture of shares and new loans.

Frozen funds will also be released, and CTR also plans to sell its rail divisions, raising an expected £10 million.

## Watchdog lets insurers off the Serps hook

Ian Wylie

**I**NSURERS will not be forced to compensate up to 238,000 people who may have been wrongly advised to leave the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

A report published yesterday by the chief City watchdog, the Securities and Investment Board, says there is no evidence of systematic mis-selling of personal pensions to people opting out of Serps.

Since 1986, employees have been allowed to contract out of Serps and have some of their National Insurance contributions directed into a "rebate" personal pension.

More than five million people have opted out of Serps in the past eight years, but research by actuaries Alexander Clay and Coopers & Lybrand suggests only 4 per cent stand to lose out, with average losses just £78 a year.

At £38 million, the figure for total losses falls far short of the estimated £2 billion compensation bill faced by insurers who advised people to opt out of occupational schemes.

However, most of the losses have been incurred by young, low-paid employees who have drifted in and out of employment and been unable to build up a personal fund. The report says that-rate charges levied by some insurers have taken too large a chunk of low-value funds.

SIB chairman Andrew Large said the losses incurred were too small to justify compulsory remedial action by pension providers, but he warned that the regulator would consider publishing details of pension providers who did not take steps to reduce the impact of fixed charges on low-value funds.

The pensions arms of Barclays, Midland, NatWest, Abbey National and Royal Bank of Scotland announced they would scrap flat-rate administration charges.

## City disturbed by wage-rise threat to inflation target

Sarah Fife

**T**HE City took fright at new evidence that wage increases are unexpectedly beginning to take off, renewing fears that the Government's tough inflation target is under threat.

Despite a relatively modest rise in earnings growth to 3.75 per cent in March, the increase was enough to weaken gilts and short sterling, as the markets assumed a higher probability that interest rates will rise from 6 per cent.

As official unemployment fell by 3,200 to 2,183,500 in April, its lowest level for five years, new earnings data reignited concern that the economic recovery, led by consumer spending, could need

reining in to avoid inflation passing the Government's 2.5 per cent goal.

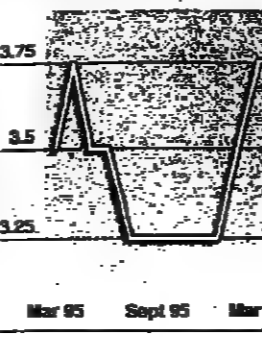
Rising basic pay settlements, as well as a significant jump in one-off bonuses, led behind the rise, up from an initial estimate of 3.5 per cent in February which was in turn revised to 3.75 by the Office for National Statistics.

The Treasury immediately tried to damp down reaction, saying that the rate was historically low. But City analysts said that the earnings figures had come at a sensitive time, a day after the Bank of England warned that the revival in consumer spending could be strong enough to warrant a rise in interest rates if the Government is to meet its inflation target.

CIBC analyst David Cole-

### Wage change

Average wage growth, % change over 12 months



## City disturbed by wage-rise threat to inflation target

Sarah Fife

man said: "Recent growth in the economy has been underpinned by consumer spending, and a rise in real earnings growth would clearly add to the impetus. So while April's drop in unemployment was less than expected, the view that another cut in base rates is unwarranted is gaining ground."

Education and employment minister Eric Forth stressed the decrease in long-term unemployment, (people claiming benefit for a year or more) of 8,700 in the three months to April. But the number of claimants registered for six months or more rose by 14,300 during the same period, and the number of new vacancies notified at job centres was also down between March and April by 6,700.

The headline rate of claimant unemployment masked the first rise in female joblessness since October.

## BBC 'puts jobs in Wales at risk'

Geoffrey Gibbs

**F**EAR that South Wales could lose out on a £1 billion hi-tech inward investment because of premature publicity have provoked a furious row between the BBC and the Welsh Office.

Reports that Lucky Goldstar, one of Korea's largest electronics groups, was about to announce plans to build a silicon chip plant and create 4,000 jobs in Newport led the main television news bulletin on Friday and featured prominently on news and business programmes at the weekend.

The reports — which said the announcement would be made at the beginning of this week — threw the Welsh Office into a state of apoplexy.

Negotiations on bringing the huge inward investment to Wales remain at a delicate stage and officials feared the news coverage might be interpreted as trying to force Goldstar's hand in favour of Wales rather than rival locations in Scotland, Ireland and North-East England.

It is understood that officials sought to persuade the BBC that the deal had not been clinched and that the reports might damage Newport's chances of securing the investment.

Frantic efforts were made by the Welsh Office and the Welsh Development Agency over the weekend to placate the Korean company and assure it the reports had not come from a Government source.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8275	France 15.84	Italy 2.90	Singapore 2.0
Canada 1.54	Germany 2.225	Japan 16.0	Spain 16.75
Denmark 8.73	Greece 360.00	Netherlands 2.52	Sweden 10.65
Finland 7.1125	Hong Kong 11.42	New Zealand 2.14	Switzerland 12.75
	India 52.80	Norway 9.71	Turkey 112.041
	Ireland 1.9225	Portugal 232.25	USA 1.8
	Saudi Arabia 4.85		

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Bid plans are put on hold until after next election

# PowerGen renews attack on Lang

Simon Beavis  
Industrial Editor

**P**OWERGEN, the electricity generator thwarted by the Government in its attempt to buy Midlands Electricity, yesterday made a fresh attack on the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang, and said it still wanted to buy a regional electricity company.

Branding the Government's decision to block its Midlands bid as a political move to "quieten down the market", chief executive Ed Wallis said PowerGen would keep its sights on buying an REC — most likely after the general election.

He spoke as the company rushed out its results for the year to the end of March and announced a £400 million package for shareholders including a 10 per cent buyback of its shares and a 40 per cent increase in the final dividend to 21p.

The package has been funded by the sale of PowerGen's 21 per cent stake in Midlands Electricity, where it made a £68 million profit — and the proceeds of the sale of half its 32 million shares in National Grid.

Mr Wallis struck to his prediction that five or six super-

utilities would eventually emerge to dominate the privatised electricity market, despite Mr Lang's decision to override Monopolies Commission recommendations and block the Midlands bid and a similar pitch by National Power for Southern Electric.

"It will happen. It's only a matter of when," he insisted. He said that Mr Lang's decision had created a "farfetched" situation in the UK electricity sector.

Mr Wallis insisted that it was better for shareholders if the group used its brimming cash resources to make big ticket acquisitions, either at home or overseas, rather than mounting bigger share buy-back programmes. The company was playing down City speculation that it might even consider bidding for a water company.

The group was also waiting for full clarification from the industry regulator. Professor Stephen Littlechild, about its proposed £450 million sale of power stations to Hanson.

The deal has been frozen by PowerGen in the light of Mr Lang's decision because Hanson, which already owns the regional company Eastern, is emerging as the sort of vertically integrated power company that PowerGen aspired to be.

With Eastern building up a

12 per cent share of the generation market by next April — when PowerGen's share will have fallen to 20 per cent — PowerGen has sought clarification from Professor Littlechild. One option open to the group is to appeal to the Office of Fair Trading if it fails to gain sufficient sales. But some believe Eastern could try to force PowerGen's hand by resorting to legal action to force a completion of the deal.

The City was cheered by news that pre-tax profits last year rose by 26 per cent to £687 million on sales up by 2 per cent to £2.93 billion. But observers were concerned about PowerGen's still abrasive approach to Mr Lang's decision and the shares slid back 10p to 537p.

One analyst said: "Where they fall short is by bursting blood vessels over government decisions. The average person in the street takes it for granted the Government will screw it up but they seem incapable of doing that."

The results were boosted by a £121 million credit from the release of provisions no longer needed but there were also accelerated depreciation charges of £57 million and a £37 million provision to cover losses and long-term contracts at its troubled gas joint venture, Kinetics.



Outrage... a demonstrator "hangs" himself to protest at Shell's involvement with Nigeria. PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

# Shell snubs the Ogoni

Jan King

**S**HELL mounted a robust defence of its activities in Nigeria yesterday, riling out a withdrawal from the country, and calling for an atmosphere of "reconciliation".

Chairman John Jennings attempted to draw the sting from attacks on Shell's policy on Nigeria at the group's annual meeting, agreeing to shareholder calls for a moment's "quiet reflection" in memory of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, a long-time critic of Shell who was hanged by Nigeria's military government last November.

Mr Jennings admitted publicly for the first time that Shell had bought around 100 handguns for police guarding its operations in Ogoniland, the Nigerian region where it has been accused of damaging the environment, and where Mr Saro-Wiwa's campaign was based.

He also admitted that Shell's drilling standards in Nigeria were not as high as those applied elsewhere and that Shell had suffered more oil spills in Nigeria than elsewhere.

But Mr Jennings enraged critics by ruling out intervention on behalf of 19 more Ogoni activists being held by the Nigerian government, insisting it was not for Shell to "interfere" in the country's legal processes, and by refusing calls from Fire, the corporate governance consultancy, for a shareholder poll on Shell's report and accounts.

During an often heated meeting, Mr Jennings told the 700 shareholders present that Shell wanted to return to Ogoniland — where it has not been active since 1993 — and was prepared to clean up the area, "no questions asked".

Responding to a request by shareholder Charles Meadowcroft for a minute's silence in memory of Ken Saro-Wiwa, Mr Jennings said: "I respect your feelings and, like you, I regret the tragic loss of life in Ogoniland."

Responding to other shareholder criticism, Mr Jennings accused Greenspeaks of lying in its campaign against Shell's disposal of the Brent Spar oil rig last summer.

## News in brief

### £250m city centre plan for Birmingham

A £250 million plan to redevelop a large area of Birmingham's city centre has been agreed by the property group Land Securities and the Australian insurance company AMP, which owns Pearl Assurance. The scheme covers the Martineau Square and Priory Square shopping centres and an adjacent office block in a 10-acre site bounded by Corporation Street, High Street and Union Street. It is next to Masshouse Circus, where Birmingham council plans to create Millennium Point as a focus for the regeneration of Digbeth. — Roger Coles

### Watchdog's gas challenge

OPGAS is to ask British Gas to explain its warning that 10,000 jobs might be lost if the company implemented new pricing rules issued by the industry watchdog earlier this week. Claire Spottiswoode, Ogas director-general, is to write to British Gas chairman, Richard Giordano, seeking an explanation. A British Gas spokesman said: "The (company) figures were based on careful analysis of the Ogas documentation. We stand by them."

### Larger slice for rail investors

THE Government plans to give small investors a larger slice of Railtrack after more than 500,000 people applied to buy shares in the state-owned operator of Britain's rail infrastructure. The public offer will be more than twice subscribed, meaning that the Government will offer small investors more than 30 per cent of Railtrack's shares. — Bloomberg

### £57m profit for Greenalls

GREENALLS, the Cheshire-based drinks and hotels group, announced first-half pre-tax profits of £57 million, a 44 per cent increase. Greenalls, owner of around 2,300 pubs, which was admitted to the FTSE-100 earlier this year, said the acquisition of the Boddington pub chain for £498 million had contributed £13.3 million to profits, while integration of the former Boddington businesses is likely to be completed within the next fortnight, producing £18 million of savings. The shares closed down 20 1/2p, at 580 1/2p, on profit-taking. — Jan King

### Free tickets on Eurostar

FREE standard return tickets are being offered on Eurostar services from now until the end of the year by the consortium, headed by Richard Branson, which has taken over the running of the three-hour rail trip from London to Paris. The value of the ticket is set at 99p upwards but, to qualify, passengers must have first purchased a £20 first-class return. Eurostar aims to break even within two years and to raise passenger usage from 3 million to more than 10 million. — Keith Harper

### Cable firm's loss

BRITAIN'S largest cable company, TeleWest, turned in a net loss of £53.4 million during the first quarter compared with £17.7 million for the same period last year. The group acquired SBS CableComms in October last year. — Nicholas Barnister

## Dasa sale falls through

Mark Birner

**D**AIMLER Benz aerospace division, Dasa, yesterday revealed that it has abandoned its efforts to sell its MTU subsidiary to rival aero-engine maker, BMW Rolls-Royce.

One stumbling block in the way of a deal was the competition between Rolls-Royce and the US engine manufacturer, Pratt & Whitney, MTU's partner in some areas of its civil business.

"The sale of MTU München to BMW that has been under discussion for some time will not take place," Rainer Herrlich, MTU's president, said in Berlin yesterday.

Dasa now intends to keep the aero-engine company and is aiming to see the loss-making subsidiary sold even by 1998 at the latest. That is expected to mean a programme of cost-cutting and workforce reduction.

According to a Dasa spokesman, selling MTU to the BMW Rolls-Royce joint venture would have meant MTU selling valuable parts of the operation while the possibility of its taking on a role of sub-contractor to the rival concern also founded on competition concerns. "We will stay as we are. We will continue a policy of being a risk-and-reward-sharing partner on engine programmes that make economic sense."

Rolls-Royce yesterday acknowledged the industrial logic of putting MTU together with its own joint venture but also accepted the difficulties.

## Orphans in search of their true home

Commercial Union steps into controversy over surplus funds by admitting it has £1bn in the pot, reports Pauline Springett

**C**OMMERCIAL Union yesterday fuelled the debate on the ownership of surplus funds when it revealed that its so-called orphan estate contained around £1 billion.

The announcement came as CU, the UK's largest insurer, unveiled a slump in its first quarter profits. Pre-tax profits were £106 million, compared to £112 million last year. Like rival General Accident this week, CU blamed the decline on higher claims from bad weather in the UK and North America.

Peter Foster, CU's finance director, said that the group's orphan estate was roughly the same size as that of GA's and added that CU also had no plans to distribute its orphan fund in the short term. Both companies insist that the surpluses help to bolster financial strength and are already benefiting shareholders and policyholders.

Orphan funds are so called because they are surpluses whose ownership is uncertain. They can arise in various ways, but a common reason for their existence is that insurers have made cautious payments to their policyholders. The debate centres on whether they are owned by shareholders or with-profit policyholders.

A host of insurers are at various stages of talks with the Department of Trade and Industry over the allocation of their orphan funds. The UK's total orphan funds have been estimated at £26 billion to £40 billion, although Roman Glady, an insurance analyst at brokers Merrill Lynch, said he believed it would be more accurate to put it at £10 billion.

He explained that this was partly because the original estimates now appeared overdone but also because surplus funds of mutual insurers

could not strictly be called orphan since they were clearly owned by policyholders as mutuals have no shareholders.

Orphan estates became an issue in the early 1990s. Both London and Manchester and United Friendly agreed with the DTI that £106 million and £290 million respectively could be attributed to shareholders. Neither sum was paid out. Instead they were

reallocated to the shareholders fund for which they now earn interest. United Friendly also gave its with-profits policyholders a special bonus.

Since then Refuge Assurance and Prudential have all said they are in talks with the DTI about their orphan funds. Refuge is believed to have an orphan estate worth about £350 million, while Britannic's could be around

£1.5 billion. A decision on the allocation of both of these funds is expected at any time by the City.

But the main interest surrounds the Prudential, estimated to have an orphan fund of up to £5 billion. These talks are not expected to end for at least another year. When they do, the City expects a bonus for the with-profits policyholders, plus a windfall gain for shareholders.

## Underside

Roger Cowe

**O**F COURSE Germans have a sense of humour, but can they get their facts straight? The chief executive of Siemens, Jürgen Gehrels, encouraged by the presence of European Commission President Jacques Delors and the matey atmosphere at this week's German-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry lunch, chortled: "We were pleased to see the Euroceptics suffer a setback this weekend when a Frenchman lifted the FA Cup supported by a German." Except, of course, that there are no Germans playing for Manchester United. Peter Schmeichel hails from Denmark, where the population had to be leached on twice before they opted for European Union. But then, some Germans have always thought of Denmark as more German than Scandinavian.

Eurovision Song Contest last year. The Norwegian sponsors of this year's contest are keen to extol the virtues of Norwegian business. For example, Norwegian salmon production costs have halved in the last decade; and Hardanger is the world's most northerly fruit-growing region — thanks to monks from York. Even more interestingly, many Japanese marriages are apparently kept going by ground reindeer antlers, regarded as an aphrodisiac. Come back Dasa.

**C**OME back those nice Euroceptics from the time before they became known as human resource management. The people have changed along with the name, from the middle-aged women — a cross between public school matron and hospital sister — to a breed of male which was supposed to have died out in the 1970s.

This observation comes from the cutting edge of human resource management — a conference of senior professionals discussing equal opportunities at work.

One delegate, trying to elicit information from a senior conference organ-



niser (male) was offered only: "Ephwooar, check that out" as a female personnel officer walked by. It turned out he was also responsible for giving the OK to a cabaret featuring women dressed in bunny suits à la Playboy, and is also the man who refers to his female staff as "tampons" because they mop everything up. Hooray for progress.

**I**T LOOKS like the sale of nuclear power stations will be next to benefit from the inspired "yes it hurt, yes it worked" approach to advertising. It would be too transparent to

copy the British Nuclear Fuels approach of abstract high technology, with robots and no mention of the words nuclear or waste. One idea could be a two-headed version of Sid the British Gas investor and the encouragement, in this case, of multiple share applications. But after recent events at Gas, Sid must be avoided. How about: "If Britain had an energy policy, nuclear power would be very important." No, far too honest.

**T**HE curse of Doctor Death continues. It seemed just an unhappy coincidence when Lord Owen, fresh from his years as a peace envoy in the Labour Party, the SDP and Yagoslavias, became a non-executive director of Coats Viscella in September 1994, on the same day that the company was dumped out of the FTSE-100 index.

But sadly for Coats, his curse shows no sign of disappearing. Chairman Sir David Alliance delivered a profits warning on Tuesday along with his statement at the annual meeting. The news comes less than a month after the company's controversial announcement that it was cutting

2,700 jobs in Britain and India at a cost of £50 million. Investors in Middlesex Holdings, where the Doctor is chairman, be warned.

**B**AD news for western businesses hoping to make a killing in China. Chinese managers have attended a special school, set up to apply ancient Chinese military strategies to the business world. Time to resurrect military metaphors about cut-throat competition, suicidal pricing and being blown out of the water.

**L**IFE has not been overly burdensome for Michael Lawrence since his well-publicised sacking as chief executive of the Stock Exchange. The size of severance pay still remains a closely guarded secret. But the Underside can extortively reveal that he is not on his beam ends.

In fact, the ebullient Lawrence has such an embarrassment of Exchange cash that he is this very day flying into the British Virgin Isles to tie up a "property deal". Doubtless his acknowledged skills of tact and diplomacy will serve him well in his new role as Caribbean real estate magnate.

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# Racing

## Kelleyway holds Derby ace in Glory Of Dancer

Nash House taken out of betting after poor show in the Dante. **Graham Rock** reports

**G**LORY OF DANCER and Oliver Peslier were a muddling race for the Homeowners Mecca Dante Stakes at York yesterday, beating Dushyantor half a length. Paul Kelleyway's colt, the favourite with all three major bookmakers for the Vodafone Derby at Epsom on June 8, it would be unwise to take the form too literally, though. With none of the leading contenders wanting to make the running, Jack Jennings set a modest pace and was still in front with less than two furlongs remaining.

Then Glory Of Dancer and Dushyantor swooped, with Glory Of Dancer showing just the better speed to beat Henry Cecil's colt. A length away, Jack Jennings hung on to third ahead of Nash House, who threatened briefly two furlongs from home, with Double Leaf and Storm Trooper close up.

A pony track near Caen was where Peslier learned his skill as a boy. The French

jockey has never ridden at Epsom, but the undulations of the Derby course hold no fears for him. "I rode ponies for six or seven years. The course was left-hand, up and down, so I think it should be no problem," he said.

Peslier, who has ridden 22 winners in Japan and 44 in France this year, was enjoying his first success in England. Last season he landed the Irish Derby on Winged Love and rode Freedom Cry into second place behind Lammtarra in the Arc, but he rates Glory Of Dancer the best horse he has sat on.

Glory Of Dancer was due to be sold last autumn after he had won the Gran Criterium in Milan, but he failed to pass a veterinary examination because of a weakness in his ankles.

The Italian syndicate which owns him opted to send him to Newmarket, where the training facilities are unsurpassed, and they chose Kelleyway because he had been so successful with

Felder, who was Italian owned. "It takes a good horse to come from last to first," said Kelleyway. While he has earned the nickname "Pattern Race Paul" for tilting at equine windmills more often than seemed justified by the quality of his stock, Kelleyway has a good record with the relatively modest horses in his care.

"They don't deal me many cards, but this one is an ace," he said, pulling out his jaw. Neither Kelleyway nor Peslier has any doubts about Glory Of Dancer staying a mile and a half, but there is plenty of speed on the dam's side of his pedigree and yesterday's race provided an insufficient test of stamina to be conclusive.

Cecil was pleased with Dushyantor. "He has come on a lot from last time, and will come on again," he said. "They didn't go fast enough for him today."

Michael Kinane spent most of the race boxed in on the rails aboard Storm Trooper. He reported that he would have gone close if he had made good his opening.

Nash House, who drifted dramatically in the pre-race



First leg... Bathilde (left) kicks off Michael Kinane's 629-1 treble with a first race win in the Middleton Stakes at York yesterday

## O'Brien faces Hotel inquiry

**A**DAM O'BRIEN, the record-breaking Irish trainer, faces charges of acting in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct or good reputation of British racing at a Jockey Club inquiry today.

O'Brien, 26, who has broken all records in Ireland since taking out a licence in 1992, was referred to the disciplinary committee at Portman Square by the Cheltenham stewards after his withdrawal of Hotel Minella from the Coral Cup at the festival meeting.

The gelding finished ninth in the Champion Hurdle on the opening day of the fixtures and pulled out of the following day's Coral Cup on the morning of the race.

Hotel Minella's declaration under top-weight for the 240,000-added handicap stopped the weights rising at the overnight stage and left 15 of the 23 runners out of the handicap proper, prompting suggestions — which O'Brien strenuously denied — that he had been left in to benefit others at the top of the weights.

## York with TV form

1.00 Dr Maudslayi	2.40 Strategic Choice
2.35 Maudslayi	4.10 Freedom For Life (aka)
2.50 ROYAL MAJESTY	4.50 Haworth
	6.10 Two Past Six

**2.00 MICHAEL SMITH MEMORIAL GLEANER STAKES 2YO colts & fillies 1st of 2000**

101	415- ATOR PLACE (14) P Cappaen 5-12	1	Field 6
102	1 IN MASSON (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	J Kinane 4
103	1 KIRBY ALICE (14) D J Chapman 8-7	3	J Kinane 4
104	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	Post Stables 3
105	0-4 BACCHUS (14) D J Chapman 8-7	5	Post Stables 3
106	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	Post Stables 3
107	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	Post Stables 3
108	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	Post Stables 3
109	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	Post Stables 3
110	1-20 HAWORTH (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	Post Stables 3

**2.35 LAMHORN-CORRY AM BANTOCK STAKES 2YO fillies 67,000**

201	102-00 BULLFINCH (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	Post Stables 3
202	016-00 TIRANNO (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	Post Stables 3
203	028-00 THUNDER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	Post Stables 3
204	028-00 THUNDER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	Post Stables 3
205	2-1 PROSPERITY (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	Post Stables 3
206	1-16-00 GUY (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	Post Stables 3
207	01-20-00 MYSTERY (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	Post Stables 3
208	02-1-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	Post Stables 3
209	02-0-00 INDIAN DELIGHT (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	Post Stables 3
210	01-1-00 CHARLIE CHANG (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	Post Stables 3
211	00-0-00 SALLY JACK (14) M Scaud 8-7	11	Post Stables 3
212	00-0-00 SALLY JACK (14) M Scaud 8-7	12	Post Stables 3
213	00-0-00 SALLY JACK (14) M Scaud 8-7	13	Post Stables 3
214	00-0-00 SALLY JACK (14) M Scaud 8-7	14	Post Stables 3
215	00-0-00 SALLY JACK (14) M Scaud 8-7	15	Post Stables 3

**3.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDBICAP 2YO fillies 610,000**

301	011-00 KING OF PEARLS (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	J Kinane 4
302	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	M Wynn 10
303	01-0-00 LETITIA (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	J Kinane 4
304	012-00 ROYAL MAJESTY (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	Post Stables 3
305	01-0-00 TANGENT (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	Post Stables 3
306	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	Post Stables 3
307	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	Post Stables 3
308	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	Post Stables 3
309	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	Post Stables 3
310	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	Post Stables 3
311	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	11	Post Stables 3
312	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	12	Post Stables 3
313	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	13	Post Stables 3
314	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	14	Post Stables 3
315	02-0-00 MISSILE (14) M Scaud 8-7	15	Post Stables 3

**4.10 DUKE OF YORK STAKES (Group 2) 2YO fillies 224,000**

401	024-00 IMPROVISED (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	J Kinane 4
402	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	M Wynn 10
403	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	M Wynn 10
404	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	M Wynn 10
405	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	M Wynn 10
406	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	M Wynn 10
407	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	M Wynn 10
408	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	M Wynn 10
409	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	M Wynn 10
410	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	M Wynn 10
411	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	11	M Wynn 10
412	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	12	M Wynn 10
413	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	13	M Wynn 10
414	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	14	M Wynn 10
415	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	15	M Wynn 10

**4.40 BRUNNEN CHALLENGER HANDBICAP 2YO fillies 67,000**

501	024-00 IMPROVISED (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	J Kinane 4
502	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	M Wynn 10
503	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	M Wynn 10
504	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	M Wynn 10
505	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	M Wynn 10
506	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	M Wynn 10
507	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	M Wynn 10
508	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	M Wynn 10
509	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	M Wynn 10
510	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	M Wynn 10
511	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	11	M Wynn 10
512	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	12	M Wynn 10
513	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	13	M Wynn 10
514	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	14	M Wynn 10
515	020-00 PRINCE ALICE (14) M Scaud 8-7	15	M Wynn 10

## Salisbury runners and riders

1.40 Lord Bute	2.45 Juniper
2.10 Bold Duke	4.50 Daily Risk
2.45 Bolsover	4.50 Starburst
2.15 Chief Cumbour	2.50 Old Irish

**2.10 WASHINGTON HANDBICAP 2YO fillies 67,000**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	PRESTON (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	J Kinane 4
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**2.45 DORSET HANDBICAP 2YO fillies 67,000**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**3.15 DORSET CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO fillies 67,000**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**4.15 Aintree (N.H.) tonight**

6.45 Master South	7.15 Red Vulture
6.45 Master South	7.45 Red Vulture
6.45 Master South	7.45 Red Vulture

**4.45 Aintree (N.H.) tonight**

6.45 Master South	7.15 Red Vulture
6.45 Master South	7.45 Red Vulture
6.45 Master South	7.45 Red Vulture

## Folkestone (N.H.) tonight

6.00 Theatrical	7.00 Theatrical
6.00 Theatrical	7.00 Theatrical
6.00 Theatrical	7.00 Theatrical

**6.00 THEATRIAL**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**7.00 THEATRIAL**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**7.00 THEATRIAL**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

## Perth (N.H.)

1.50 Maudslayi	2.50 Maudslayi
2.50 Maudslayi	3.50 Maudslayi
3.50 Maudslayi	4.50 Maudslayi

**1.50 Maudslayi**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7
8	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	8	A Bailey 7
9	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	9	A Bailey 7
10	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	10	A Bailey 7

**2.50 Maudslayi**

1	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	1	A Bailey 7
2	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	2	A Bailey 7
3	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	3	A Bailey 7
4	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	4	A Bailey 7
5	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	5	A Bailey 7
6	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	6	A Bailey 7
7	50-00 OBERON RANGER (14) M Scaud 8-7	7	A Bailey 7

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

First Division
Stoke 0, Leicester 1
(agg: 0-1)

Parker chills Stoke fire

Ian Ross

GARRY PARKER'S 46th-minute goal was sufficient to move Leicester to within touching distance of a return to the Premiership...

The Victoria Ground positively vibrates on occasions such as these. The play-off is a much-magnified institution but there was a touch of magic in the cold night air.

The opening exchanges were unbearably frantic. The football gushed rather than flowed, the tackles were harsh and unsympathetic, the penalty appeals came and went regularly.

There was no rhythm, no discernible pattern and yet from the chaos emerged a game of great intensity if rather dubious quality.

Stoke's football is an interesting hybrid of intelligent tactics and frantic endeavour. They swarm like angry wasps irrespective of whether or not they are enjoying possession. It is a compelling sight if one which hints at desperation.

Leicester's approach is altogether more subtle. They pass the ball effortlessly and it is only an inability to accept what is presented to them on a plate which leaves them wanting.

The play was almost exclusively confined to midfield and a first half of much effort was remarkable - almost memorable - simply because it did not yield even one chance of any merit.

The tireless running of Leicester's Claridge often threatened to bring to an end an uneasy stalemate. But even he was not guilty of trying to reach his intended target by way of a hidden tunnel when the front door was clearly open.

Leicester's supremacy clearly warranted a goal and it duly came when they caught Stoke cold as the second half opened. Barely 30 seconds had elapsed when the combined efforts of Heskey and Taylor unhooked the home defence.

Taylor's cross from the byline was far from perfect but it was met by Parker who sent a thunderous rising volley just inside the angle of post and crossbar.

Stoke City: Pruchac; Clarkson, Stephenson, Whittle, Sandford, Devlin, Pottier (Carroll), Sims, Wallace, Gleason, Sheen, Shurridge.

Leicester: Popko; Grayson, Walsh, Walsh, East, Wode, Lennon, Taylor, Parker, Heskey, Claridge, Bevan; G Singh (Birmingham).

Third Division
Plymouth Argyle 3, Colchester 1
(agg: 3-2)

Williams blows late bubble as Argyle savour home fizz

David Foot

ARGYLE'S manager, Neil Warnock, was ordered out of the dugout by the referee during the second half of this fiery second leg. He was incensed that, a minute earlier, Tony McCarthy had not been sent off for bringing down Adrian Littlejohn as he chased unchallenged for goal.

Orten upped, Colchester pulled back a goal with a superb strike by Mark Kinsella after 66 minutes. Yet for the Devon crowd the perfect finale came with a winner by the defender Paul Williams five minutes from time.

If the game plan was to get the first-leg deficit out of the way by the quickest route, it worked in a way which had Warnock jumping off the bench after three minutes.

The game was sweetly taken by Mickey Evans, the only Plymouth-born player in the home side.

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Perfect start... Ray Houghton gives Crystal Palace a third-minute lead at Selhurst Park last night

Crystal Palace 1, Charlton Athletic 0 (agg: 3-1)

Palace upwardly mobile again

Robert Pryce

YO-YO, and thrice yo. Crystal Palace, who have been up and down in the past two seasons, are most likely on their way up again.

Last night they showed resilience if not overwhelming brilliance in completing their semi-final play-off victory over Charlton, earning them a trip to Wembley on Monday week.

Palace were the champions last time they won promotion, two years ago, yet lost their first game 6-1 at home. Did not win a match until October and finished second from bottom.

The divide has not narrowed in the interim. But they may be the play-off team best equipped to survive in the Premiership. They have a 22 million sweeper, a goalkeeper who has played for England and several others who look capable of achieving coherence in Europe's most demanding league.

If their defence proves solid enough - they need a left-sided wing-back, but then so do Liverpool - they could win a few games with their swift counter-attacking.

Ray Houghton, who remains their most accomplished midfielder, is 34, which is not necessarily a disadvantage. Last night he looked the steadiest of steady influences and his eye for

space and angles remained undimmed. He took much of the tension out of his team after three minutes, when he gave them the lead.

Charlton had reorganised their defence after Sunday's 2-1 first-leg defeat to introduce a sweeper. Palace allowed them no time to rehearse their new roles - the veteran Chris Whyte must have been dismayed to find himself having to chase Freedman around - and soon the Charlton penalty area was in disarray.

Freedman put Neal through into space he had vacated and although Rufus made an astonishing recovery tackle the ball slipped behind him to Houghton, who coolly floated

his shot into the far top corner. Then Palace conceded this early initiative. Though they continued to threaten on the counter they spent much of the rest of the half absorbing pressure.

Charlton had opportunity to equalise but Nelson shot over. Martyn tipped a Bowyer shot over and Leaburn went close with the two best chances of the half.

The first shot from nine yards out, bounced back off Martyn and Palace survived at the cost of an undignified scramble. A quarter of an hour later Martyn was scrambling again after a mix-up with Quinn. Robinson hit a first-time cross from the left, Leaburn headed down

towards the far corner and Tuttle cleared off the line. After a Buster Bloodvessel lookalike had surprised the players and amused the crowd with a celebratory streak early in the second half, David Whyte briefly delighted the visiting supporters by putting a shot past Martyn, but the linesman had already signalled offside. Palace were still doing an uncomfortably large share of the defending but Tuttle dealt with the most insistent alarm by heading over his own bar.

Crystal Palace: Martin; Tait, Roberts, Ewerthly, Quinn, Fisher, Houghton, Veart, Freedman, Neal. Charlton Athletic: Leaburn, Jackson, O'Whyne (O'Whyne), Smith, Ruka, Palmer, Robinson, Harston, S. Brown, Bowyer. Referee: M Lynch (Walsley).

Second Division: Notts County 1, Crewe Alexandra 0 (agg: 3-2)

Martindale caps County's comeback

Michael Walker

NOTTS COUNTY'S optimistic plans to regain their First Division status on the rebound after last season's relegation came a step closer to reality at Meadow Lane last night.

A tremendous goal from the tireless Gary Martindale sent County through to Wembley, where they will meet Bradford City on Sunday week, and doomed Crewe Alexandra

to their third failure in three in the play-offs. Crewe's starting line-up lacked four of those from Sunday's 2-2 draw at Gresty Road including their scorers Little and Rivers, though the latter was on the bench. Initially the disruption did not show.

In a clean, fast opening County's only efforts of note came via a dangerous cross from Fimman, the man who had started their comeback in the first leg, and a weak long-range shot from Martindale.

Martindale came on as a substitute at Crewe to score a late equaliser and that earned him the chance to form a lively partnership with Battersby from the off here. When the first save had to be made, in the 27th minute, it came from one of this duo.

Battersby cut in from the right wing to shoot fiercely with his left foot. Crewe's keeper Gayle did well to push that wide and he made another important stop shortly before the break, diving on to

a low side-footer from Rogers. Crewe had by now been reduced to high, wide and ugly punts from Maccauley and Adebola. But whenever was said at half-time seemed to work as the visitors forced Ward into his first serious action.

But at the other end Gayle was soon back in business arching backwards to claw away a flicked header from Martindale. As the game gained momentum, Martindale hit a post

and Battersby volleyed wide for County, while Adebola went close for Crewe. But the impetus was with County and in the 62nd minute, Martindale thumped a volley past Gayle after Fimman had intelligently knocked down Agamsa's waste.

Notts County: Ward; Derry, Murphy, Strader, Barstow, Richardson, Finnan, Rogers, Agamsa, Martindale, Battersby. Crewe Alexandra: Gayle; Westwood, Underhill, McArthur, Lightfoot, Savage, O'Connell, O'Connell, Collins (Rivers), Sheen (Harvey), O'Connell, Adebola. Referee: M Lynch (Walsley).

Third Division
Plymouth Argyle 3, Colchester 1
(agg: 3-2)

Williams blows late bubble as Argyle savour home fizz

David Foot

ARGYLE'S manager, Neil Warnock, was ordered out of the dugout by the referee during the second half of this fiery second leg. He was incensed that, a minute earlier, Tony McCarthy had not been sent off for bringing down Adrian Littlejohn as he chased unchallenged for goal.

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Souness fights back in Turkey

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GRAKME SOUNESS has bitten back at Galatasaray after being sacked by the Turkish Cup winners last week.

He has appealed to the world governing body Fifa, saying he was fired improperly and claiming that in March his contract was automatically extended for another year.

However, according to a Turkish newspaper the former Liverpool manager said he would give up his appeal if he was paid \$440,000 by Galatasaray, the equivalent of next season's salary.

Peter Shreeves is another jobless coach, having lost out in a staff reshuffle under Chelsea's new player-manager Roman Grobbelaar.

Birmingham City's new manager Trevor Francis has gone back to his last club Sheffield Wednesday to recruit three sides for his back-room team.

The Yorkshire club have given him permission to approach their chief scout Mick Mills, reserve coach Frank Barlow and fitness trainer Arvel Lowe.

Fresh from following on Manchester United's heels in the title race, Newcastle United are emulating their pennant for producing pennant away kits. Next season the runners-up will wear a denim-blue shirt with a black band across the chest to approximate the one worn for the 1989 FA Cup victory - at a 1990s price of £39.99.

Results

Table containing various sports results including Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Tennis, and Evening Racing.

Rush to say 'Non' to the French

Ian Ross

IAN RUSH has decided to end his playing career in west Yorkshire rather than France. Barring an improbable 11th-hour change of heart, the Liverpool striker will announce on Monday that he is to join Leeds United.

A statement to that effect had been expected yesterday but Rush asked for more time to consider an enticing offer made on Tuesday by Marseille.

Although the 34-year-old Welshman has ignored overtures from several leading European clubs since returning to Liverpool after a brief spell in Italy with Juventus eight years ago, he courtously agreed to listen to Marseille's proposals.

But even the chance to earn a small fortune in pleasant surroundings is unlikely to overturn his preference for a move across the Pennines. He is likely to sign a two-year deal and will begin the transformation from player to coach during his time at Elland Road.

Leeds's Howard Wilkinson was one of several managers to contact Rush two months ago when the striker announced that his 10-year love affair with the Merseyside club was definitely to end this summer.

After a season which brought humiliation at the hands of Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final and a worrying brush with relegation from the Premiership, Wilkinson's own future is anything but certain.

However, his response to the crisis has been typically robust and he will regard the signing of a player of Rush's pedigree and ability as something more than

a mere publicity coup. Wilkinson's clear-out of players has deemed surplus to requirements began in earnest yesterday when the Northern Ireland international defender Nigel Worthington was given a free transfer.

Rush's decision to join Leeds will disappoint a host of clubs, notably Sheffield United, who have offered him the chance to become assistant to their manager Howard Kendall, a long-time friend of the Welsh striker.

As Rush shapes to leave Liverpool, Neil Ruddock yesterday announced that he intended to remain at Anfield.

Unhappy at being omitted from Liverpool's Cup final team last Saturday, the English defender was known to be considering his long-term future. But he emerged, smiling and seemingly reassured, from talks with his manager Roy Evans at lunchtime yesterday.

"We have had a very serious conversation," said Evans. "I want him to stay, and he wants to stay. He is looking forward to being successful at this club in the years ahead."

Evans will today make a final attempt to convince his former England midfielder Michael Thomas that the club should offer him a new three-year contract in preference to joining Bayern Munich on a free transfer this summer.

The Wolves manager Mark McGhee will discipline players accused of rowdy behaviour on an end-of-season holiday in Cyprus. This behaviour sums up the attitude of most of the squad and I am not surprised by it," said McGhee. Ten players went on the trip, which was marred by complaints from fellow hotel guests of late-night reveling and rowdiness.

Hodde given private view of England

David Lacey says it was no accident that Venables' heir was at Bisham yesterday

WHILE the media's back was forcibly turned, Glenn Hodde yesterday had a sneak preview of the England squad that will soon be his. Hodde, who will take over from Terry Venables as England coach after the European Championship, looked in on a closed training session at Bisham Abbey.

His unscheduled appearance followed growing criticism of the way the Football Association had apparently gone out of its way to ensure that he was kept at arm's length from the England players during Euro 96. Yesterday he had no more than watch an hour and three-quarters' practice from afar.

It was no accident that he turned up at Bisham on the day Venables and his squad had to themselves during the preparations for Saturday's friendly against Hungary at Wembley. In fact he was the first to arrive, driving in 10 minutes before the team bus.

He watched the training session sitting on a fencepost, arms folded and eyes shielded by sunglasses. After it was over he talked briefly with Les Ferdinand and Sol Campbell and shook hands with Teddy Sheringham, but refused to talk to a solitary reporter as he left.

"Glenn came to look at the Bisham Abbey set-up," an FA spokesman said later. "It was a look-and-learn exercise, a chance to see how everything works. Terry was fully aware that he was coming and fully supportive, and he invited him back to the team hotel for lunch with the squad."

In showing a discretion worthy of Camilla Parker-Bowles, Hodde is all too aware of the media treatment even a harmless aside might receive. If the FA has its way the chances of its England coaches, present and future, being caught together by the cameras during the European Championship will be minimal.

Yesterday's appearance at Bisham still did not answer the point raised by Sir Bobby Charlton on Monday when he asked why the FA, having appointed Hodde before the European Championship, should refuse to countenance the idea of having him around, even in a passive role, during England's games.

Perhaps this involvement could only happen if Euro 96 matches in an empty stadium behind closed doors. That is unlikely - although the FA's ticket distribution system appears to be doing its best.

In the meantime, the England squad for next week's tour to China and Hong Kong is due to be announced by Venables today.

Paul Gascoigne will be back after the Scottish FA Cup final and those left out. Gary Pallister and Steve Howey for example, will realise that their chances of the European Championship have virtually disappeared.

Whether Tony Adams is included will depend on Venables' assessment of him in training this week. The recent testimonial for Merson represents the Arsenal captain's only match since a knee operation in mid-January.

Six thousand police will be deployed in the Workers' Stadium and surrounding streets when England play in Beijing a week today. Several hundred England fans are expected to watch the match - plus about 100,000 Chinese.

Sport in brief

- Golf: Yorkshire's Ryder Cup player Mark James will replace the ailing Jose-Maria Olazabal in the European qualifier for the £2.6 million Andersen Consulting World Championship. The current European No. 1 Ian Woosnam declined the place "because I don't want to be away from home around the New Year". The four-man finals will be held in Arizona on January 4-5.
- Hockey: Lauren Williams, a Wales Under-21 defender and eldest daughter of the rugby union legend JPR Williams, wins full international selection for Wales against Italy in Rome on May 30 and June 2, a look-and-learn exercise, a chance to see how everything works. Terry was fully aware that he was coming and fully supportive, and he invited him back to the team hotel for lunch with the squad.
- Sailing: A big shake-up during the final round-robin stage saw France's former world match-racing champion Bertrand Buet eliminated from the Brut Royal Lymington Cup, arrives Bob Fisher. Britain's Chris Law is among the eight who enter today's quarter-final knock-out. His rivals include Peter Gilmour of Australia and Russell Coutts of New Zealand.



Six clubs on Wembley way, page 14

Rush makes his choice, page 14

The highs and lows of rugby, page 15

An each-way bet for England, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## DEFEAT AT YORK DEPOSES THE ANTE-POST FAVOURITE FOR THE DERBY



House taken off the market... Nash House (second from right) is beaten into fourth place behind Glory Of Dancer (second from left) in the Homeowners Dante Stakes at York yesterday. Nash House had been the ante-post favourite for the Derby but is now unlikely to run in the big race at Epsom on June 8. Lord Weinstock's colt, who had made a strong impression when winning at Newbury last month, finished in some distress and bookmakers removed him from ante-post lists. Glory Of Dancer, Italian owned and trained by Paul Kelleway at Newmarket, is the new Derby favourite at 5-1

## Thrill of high flying close to the edge



Angela Patmore

**S**TRESS is a dirty word at the moment. Everywhere overworked employees are frantically doing their relaxation exercises, visualising calm scenes and imagining their limbs becoming heavy. Highly paid (though not necessarily highly qualified) "stress management consultants" warn that if we don't reduce our tension we will wind up dead or cared for in the community. The stressologists say that all our problems from whatever cause are really "stress-related". If we hang loose, troubles will clear up, rather like acne.

ing and all your senses are working at their absolute maximum, there's an incredible feeling that I suppose is focus. There is a kind of calmness about it, yet there's an extreme exhilaration knowing that you're firing on all cylinders and that you couldn't possibly ever make better decisions than you're making right now, because you're thinking so clearly. It's as though the blinkers have been taken off."

When Leden touched down after the altitude drop, in pain from frostbite and exhaustion, somebody told her: "Women only ever look that had in childbirth." No matter, all the stress had paid off.

"The view going up to 40,000ft was absolutely exquisite. I know it sounds strange but I really enjoyed the trip up. I knew I would never see that view again, and it was a very privileged vantage point. Spangles of ice were drifting past me, leaving this glorious vapour trail. I could see the whole of Egypt, the whole of Jordan, the whole of Israel and way into Saudi Arabia, and the wonderful patterns of the desert. It's not the same as looking out of an aeroplane port-hole. You have 360-degree views. In my own environment is stunning, the aerial equivalent of swimming with dolphins." She has been within a whisker of death ("I made a mistake while paragliding and my wing kept collapsing") and she has seen fellow gliders die — six of them in one "cut-n-run" (thundercloud) in Italy, tossed about in the wind.

But she won't give up her passions despite having just become a mother. "There are more fanatics in flying than in any other sport, and in free-flying particularly. You're looking for those peak experiences. It's like a drug."

## Police fault Euro 96 security

Ticket black market makes segregation inside grounds impossible says top officer

John Duncan

**A**TOP Euro 96 police officer said yesterday that there was a thriving black market in tickets and that segregating opposing supporters would be impossible.

Chief Superintendent Colin Macdonald of West Midlands police, who will be in charge at Villa Park for the four games there, said that although the official allocation to Dutch supporters at the ground was 9,000, he was expecting 20,000 to turn up and many of them would have tickets for unsegregated areas.

The first game in Birmingham, Holland v Scotland, has already been identified as a potential flashpoint, with rumours circulating that local English hooligans may take the opportunity to attack either set of supporters. The Dutch have one of Europe's most serious hooligan reputations.

"We always anticipated that segregation would be a problem," said Chief Superintendent Macdonald. "There could be a Scot sitting next to a Dutch fan with a Swiss fan next to him and an English-

man in between. I can't stop that, that will happen. "These tickets have gone all over Europe and, while we know who will have the official allocations, we have no control over the rest of them. We can't control it, for instance, if a Scot living in England has bought tickets from an English address."

## United move for Shearer

Ian Ross

**M**ANCHESTER United are planning a determined attempt to lure Alan Shearer away from Blackburn Rovers.

The Double winners are believed to be willing to offer a British record transfer fee of £12 million for the England striker.

Although Blackburn's manager Ray Harford has always insisted Shearer is not for sale at any price, he may now be willing to let him leave Ewood Park.

Preliminary negotiations between the two clubs are thought already to have taken place. If Shearer does join United, it will signal the end of Andy Cole's career at Old Trafford.

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But tickets for Villa Park have been sold all over the country and we cannot know who has got all of them. You as a private individual could have bought several tickets and might decide to sell them nearer the tournament when you get them and we might never get to hear about it."

However, the FA remains adamant that its segregation plans are intact. "We're confident that the policy will work and segregation will be achieved," said a Euro 96 spokesman. "As far as we are concerned there is no widespread black market."

"Our analogue television system is a three-to-one compression system that we have been using for years — and it is stuffed full of grotty herring-bone patterning, cross-colour effects and edge effects." Any doubters should merely watch Michael Fish on a bad tie day.

**OnLine G2 page 10**

United's manager Alex Ferguson moved last night to quash speculation that he was about to leave United because of problems over a new contract. He said: "Hopefully I'll have it resolved before I go on holiday."

### Guardian Crossword No 20,654

Set by Rufus

**Across**

- 1 An eight-foot long snooker rest (6)
- 4 Produced returned bill and sued maker (6)
- 9 A minor drawback (4)
- 10 Offer sprawling lion some meat (10)
- 11 Thus mail goes astray for East African (6)
- 12 Shown to have a deficit and charged (8)
- 13 American Lesley's going out with, to no avail (9)
- 15 Looks composed? (4)
- 16 Welshman gets backing in the church (4)
- 17 Spongers surgeons initially call out for (8)
- 21 Whisk car off in transporter (8)
- 22 What one does with a bookmaker, of course (3,3)

**Down**

- 24 A blooming comfortable place to be (3,2,5)
- 25 A minute mark (4)
- 26 Relaxation, for example, about a moral slip (6)
- 27 Why brides may conceal having mixed parentage (6)

**19** One would feel put out to be so treated (7)

**20** Greek ferry operator (6)

**23** A man fore-armed has such a nerve (6)

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